He thinks, he says, that your readers will agree with him that it is the opponents of the use of the vestments who have made the most noise. Let that be a matter of opinion, but the question is, Who have been the cause of all the noise and hubbub? and the answer is too plain and evident to need being stated—'*Omnibus hoc notum est tonsoribus atque poetis.*'

He imagines me to be mistaken in thinking that the Church Association would, in the case I supposed, let persons wear the said vestments at the whole of the service, and says that they would not do more than 'touch them with the point of the tongs to commit them to the flames.' The *virus* would be taken out of them by the plan I suggested, and I believe the members of the said body would be only too glad to see the wearers of the 'garments' deprived of their grievance, and committed to silence and quiet by its being thus taken away. They want to wear them at part of the service: make them wear them at the whole of it, if they then care to wear them at all. I cannot conclude without again thanking a 'London Layman' for the very valuable piece of information he has given us, in telling us that the Office for the Communion Service is distinct from that of Morning Prayer. He must be a deeply learned man to have found that out, and every 'Country Parson' like myself must feel deeply indebted to him for such an addition to the stock of his knowledge. 'I thank thee, "London Layman," for teaching me that word.'

One only question I would ask of him. His friends tell us every now and then that there is no rubric for such things as a hymn before the sermon, or after it, or for this, that, and the other. 'What I want to know,' as J. Bright is so fond of saying, is, where is the rubric for any change of dress, at, or after, or between, any service or services, in the Book of Common Prayer? Such a learned man can, of course, tell us. As to the 'sanctity' of the said garb, if there is not supposed to be any, why do his friends make such a pother about it?

F. O. Morris.

Weak Throat.

Sir,—I have lately noticed in your valuable little paper some letters on the art of breathing whilst speaking or reading. I am very glad that attention has thus been called to this most important subject, because I feel convinced that, if only we clergy can learn, as all great singers have learnt, the art of using our lungs, mouth, and teeth, aright, we should hear no more of clergyman's throat or other inconveniences arising from the use of the voice. Mr. J. Elwin, of 21 Coleherne Road, West Brompton, has lately been lecturing on this subject for Canon King to the candidates for ordination at Oxford, and also to the clergy at different centres. I, for one, can testify to the immense relief to the throat which his system of taking breath has been to me. Other clergymen have told me, who used to suffer from their throat, how invaluable his system has been to them. It is a strange fact that scarcely one man in a hundred knows how to fill his lungs properly. The usual plan is to take a deep breath with the mouth half open, which must of necessity cause a great waste of air, as most of the breath escapes before the mouth can be shut. Mr. Elwin teaches that the breath should be taken through the mouth *nearly* closed, the teeth almost meeting, and through the nose. The head should be kept well back and the chin should rest upon the collar. With the lungs inflated in this way, the ribs being sensibly drawn up, it is quite wonderful what a power the lungs become if they are kept full. This was the great secret of the late Bishop Wilberforce's charmingly distinct and clear utterance. He had learnt the art of using his lungs as a bellows, and his lips, and teeth, and tongue, which were indefatigable to bite, as it were, the breath which gently escaped from his lungs, into words. I would most strongly recommend any clergyman suffering from a weak throat, or a difficulty in making himself heard, to take a few lessons from Mr. Elwin. I believe his charge for a lesson at his own house to the clergy is only six shillings.

Herbert C. Sturges.

Marriage Customs.

Sir,—In reply to 'Weddings,' permit me to give an extract from Wheatley *On the Common Prayer*. He says:—

'The remaining part of this Rubric (which was added to the foregoing part at the Restoration) is concerning *the position* of the parties, whom it orders to stand, *the man on the right hand and the woman on the left*, i.e. *the man on the right hand of the woman, and the woman on the left hand of the man*, as it is worded in the Salisbury Manual. The reason that is there given for it is a very weak one, viz., because the side out of which the woman was formed was taken out of the left rib of Adam. The true reason, to be sure, is because the right hand is the most honourable place, which is, therefore, both by the Latin and Greek, and all Christian Churches, assigned to the man, as being the head of the wife. The Jews are the only persons that, I ever heard, acted otherwise, who place the woman on the right hand of her husband in allusion to that expression in the Forty-fifth Psalm, "*At Thy right hand did stand the queen in a vesture of gold, &c.*"'

Johannes.

'W. B. L.' also writes to the same effect.

Books for the Navvies' Mission.

Sir,—A short time ago you kindly inserted a letter from me asking for contributions of books, &c. in order to start Lending Libraries for Navvies in connexion with the Navvy Mission Society. I should like to ask that donors in the neighbourhood of London and in the south of England would kindly direct their parcels to the Hon. G. Kinnaird, 2 Pall Mall East, London, S.W., who will be glad to receive books for me.

Elizabeth Garnell.

St. Beit.—'Antiqua' writes: 'Can any one tell me who St. Beit was? The old metropolitan church of Prague was dedicated to him. When did he live? and is that dedication unique?'

Truro Cathedral Building Fund.—We have forwarded to the Bishop of Truro three shillings received from Miss Pilling, Summerside House, Great Malvern. All future subscriptions should be sent direct to the Bishop, Kenwyn, Truro, Cornwall.

Received also.—H. A. B.; C. Ll. E.; H. P.; and others.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Aldington, Kent.

Sir,—Seeing that *The Change-ringers' Guide* omits Aldington, I have selected ten peals and rung them, purposely to inform my brother ringers that Aldington has been a ringing village for a century, and is situated two miles from Smeeth Station, on the South-eastern Railway.

On Dec. 4, 1879, a 720 Bob Minor, 18 bobs and 2 singles.

On the 11th, two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, one 12 bobs and the other 15 bobs.

On the 13th, a 720 Bob Minor, 9 bobs and 6 singles.

On the 18th, a 720 Oxford Treble Bob, 12 bobs.

On the 27th, two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, 12 bobs each peal.

On the 29th, a 720 Treble Bob, 9 bobs; 720 Bob Minors, 42 singles, in three equal parts.

On Jan. 1, 1880, a 720 Bob Minor, 18 bobs and 2 singles.

Edward Hyder.

Ringing by the Norwich Diocesan Association at Coddenham, Suffolk.

On Friday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Helmingham Branch of the above rang, at St. Mary's Church, Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, comprising 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. T. Sadler, 1; J. Knight, 2; W. Dye, 3; G. Thurlow, 4; G. Sharman, 5; W. Whiting, 6; J. Oxborrow (conductor), 7; E. Oxborrow, 8. Tenor, 16½ cwt.

Change-ringing at All Saints, Carshalton, Surrey.

On New-year's Eve, eight members of the St. Mary's Society, Beddington, who are also members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, rang at the above church Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, comprising 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 53 mins. J. Plowman, 1; E. Bennett (conductor), 2; J. Branch, 3; J. Trappitt, 4; J. Cawley, 5; C. Gordon, 6; J. Zealcy, 7; J. Clark, 8. Tenor 12½ cwt., in G sharp.

Muffled Peal at St. Michael and All Angels, Hackford-with-Whitwell, Norfolk.

On the 31st ult., a muffled peal of 720 Bob Minor was rung at the above church as a mark of esteem to Mrs. Holley, widow of the late Rev. Edward Holley, for many years Rector of these parishes. T. Hawes, 1; R. Gladden, 2; R. Manthorpe, 3; G. Timbers (conductor), 4; W. Timbers, 5; H. Hawes, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in A.

St. Edmund's Church, Salisbury.

The usual Belfry Service was held on the last night of the year for the Sarum St. Edmund Society of Church Bell-ringers. Muffled peals were rung from 11 o'clock. At 11.40, after a few words from the Rector, a short service was said, consisting of appropriate collects and a special prayer. After which all remained kneeling in silent prayer, till after twelve strokes on the tenor had marked that one year was ended and another begun, when the *Gloria* was said and a Blessing pronounced. After an open peal the members repaired to St. Edmund's House hard by for tea or coffee. We are glad to find that the efforts which have been made in this parish to make church bell-ringing more of a religious act are not unappreciated by the parishioners and others. Besides the regular members there are severa honorary members, including the Dean, the Rev. Chancellor Swayne, and others. This is the third year of the Society's existence, so that we may regard it as now fairly established.

The Society of Change-ringers, Doncaster.

On New-year's Day the Sheffield ringers, on an invitation from the above Society, rang at St. George's Church, in 3 hrs. 19 mins., the late Mr. John Holt's One-Course peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes. T. Hattersley (conductor), 1; H. G. Wilson, 2; H. Marwood, 3; C. Crawford, 4; J. Dixon, 5; C. H. Rawson, 6; W. Burchinshaw, 7; S. Holmes, 8. Tenor, 31 cwt., in E flat. Twenty-six sat down to a substantial dinner at the Elephant Hotel, when two beautiful illuminated Addresses were presented by Mr. Pease (the Chairman) to Messrs. T. Hattersley and C. H. Rawson for the perseverance and attention rendered to the Society.

Change-ringing at Balcombe, Sussex.

On New-year's Day the Capel ringers visited Balcombe, by kind permission of the Rector, and rang a 720 of College Pleasure (at the first attempt) on the new bells, in 25 mins. M. Jenkins, 1; R. Jordan, 2; G. Holloway, 3; A. Tidy, 4; E. Jordan, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6.

After which touches of College Exercise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, and Oxford Double, in which G. Mills, R. Worsfold, and J. Edwards, took part. Those being the first peals of the kind on the bells.

Also at St. John's, Capel, on Friday, the 9th inst., a 720 of Stedman's Slow Course, in 25 mins. G. Mills, 1; R. Jordan, 2; G. Holloway, 3; R. Worsfold, 4; E. Jordan, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6.

Change-ringing by the Yorkshire Association at Holbeck, Leeds.

On Friday, the 2nd inst., at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, 5184 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 1 min. S. Basnett, 1; G. Holmes, 2; G. Barraclough, 3; J. W. Rowbotham, 4; J. E. Hern, 5; T. Lockwood, 6; D. Brearley, 7; J. W. Snowdon, Esq., 8. The peal (Snowdon's *Treatise*, Part I. p. 39) was composed and conducted by Tom Lockwood. Tenor, 16 cwt.

Also a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, comprising 5184 changes, was rung in 3 hrs. 1 min. S. Bassnett, 1; G. Holmes, 2; G. Barraclough, 3; J. W. Rowbotham, 4; J. E. Hern, 5; T. Lockwood (conductor), 6; D. Brearley, 7; J. W. Snowdon, Esq., 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

Change-ringing at Chester Cathedral.

On Saturday evening, the 3rd inst., eight ringers of the Chester Cathedral Society rang three courses of Kent Treble Bob Major, or 960 changes, two wrong and one right, twice repeated, in 41 mins. A. Cross, 1; J. Moulton, 2; T. Bethell, 3; W. Woods, 4; B. Stevens, 5; P. Griffiths, 6; W. Walton, 7; F. Ball (conductor), 8. This is supposed to be the greatest performance ever achieved on the bells in Treble Bob Major, and is the longest touch that has been rung by the first seven ringers of the Company, who have only been taught this method since November 15th, 1879.—Attested by C. Price. Tenor, 33 cwt., in C.

Muffled Peal at Birchington, Kent.

On Saturday, the 3rd inst., the bells in the Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, were rung muffled, as a last mark of respect to Mr. T. Clark, who died Dec. 27th at the advanced age of ninety-two. P. A. Reed, 1; W. Tucker, 2; Z. Wilcher, 3; T. B. Reed, jun., 4; T. B. Reed, sen. (conductor), 5; T. Mount, 6; A. Pointer, 7; G. Wilcher, 8; C. Tucker, 9; J. Kempton, 10. He was the last surviving ringer of the old band raised by the late J. P. Powell, then owner of Quex Park, and instructed by the celebrated W. Shipway, who was engaged by Mr. Powell to teach the young band the art of change-ringing. Mr. Clark's last performance as a ringer was on his eighty-fourth birthday, when he rang a short touch of Grandsire Triples.

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

On Wednesday, the 7th inst., the members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association held a district meeting at Cirencester. The Cheltenham band rang a quarter-peal of Stedman's Triples. About seventy members attended Divine service at the parish church, when an address was delivered by the Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Millar; they afterwards dined at the Fleece Hotel, the Rev. Dr. Millar presided, and was supported by the Rev. M. Trotter, Rector of St. Mary-de-Crypt, Gloucester (Treasurer to the Association); the Rev. Pitt Ekyn, France Lynch (Secretary), with other clergymen and gentlemen. After the repast the Vicar welcomed the Society to Cirencester, and submitted the toast of Church and State, which was well received. The Rev. Mowbray Trotter responded, and said he hoped that Church and State would stand together, and stand for long. Mr. Drinkwater gave 'The health of the Chairman,' and spoke in warm terms of the discourse he had given them. Dr. Millar replied, and said it was a gratification to him when the Society was formed in the diocese, and now again to welcome so many of them around the festive board. Several new members were elected, and Tewkesbury was fixed upon as the next place of meeting, to be held early in April. A mixed company then rang several touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters; and a mixed company of six-bell ringers also visited Siddington, and rang upwards of a thousand changes in the Plain Bob and Grandsire methods.

Change-ringing at Appleton, Berkshire.

On Thursday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Appleton Society rang at the parish church a peal of Grandsire Triples, comprising 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. F. S. White, 1; E. Holifield, 2; B. Barrett, 3; W. Bennett, 4; J. Avery, 5; G. Holifield (conductor), 6; F. White, 7; H. Woodwards, 7. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

Change-ringing at Drayton, Berks.

On the Feast of the Epiphany the Vicar of Drayton, Berks, received a visit from his friends at Appleton, and with them rang at the parish church a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. F. White, 1; E. Holifield, 2; B. Barrett, 3; W. Bennett, 4; G. Holifield, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 6. This is the last performance on the present ring, which is about to be augmented to a ring of eight.

Visit of the Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Ringers to Woodhouse, Leicesterahire.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., several ringers from Long Eaton visited the above place, and by the kind permission of the Rector (the Rev. L. Hayes), rang touches of Bob Minor, Treble Bob, and Grandsire Doubles. Afterwards, with the assistance of Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., and Mr. A. Archer of Loughboro', a 720 of Bob Minor was rung in 26 mins. S. Clarke, 1; A. Archer, 2; R. Hickton, 3; J. W. Taylor, jun., 4; W. Gilson, 5; J. Barrow (conductor), 6. Tenor, 10 cwt.

Change-ringing at Stratford St. Mary, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., the Stratford and Higham Company rang a 720 Oxford Treble Bob in 27 mins., being the first 720 of Treble Bob ever rung on these newly-hung and rich-toned bells. R. Wright, 1; C. Wright, 2; W. Smith, 3; J. Smith, 4; John Smith, 5; G. Smith (conductor), 6. Tenor, 16½ cwt.

Change-ringing at St. Michael's, Garston, Lancashire.

On Monday, the 12th inst., a mixed set of ringers rang in 27 mins. a 720 of Grandsire Minor. S. Gough, 1; R. Rowlands, 2; T. Elson, 3; W. Meadows, 4; T. H. Mawdsley (conductor), 5; G. W. Hughes, 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt., in G.

Notice to Bellfounders.

We are sorry to hear that some of our Bellfounders feel aggrieved that we do not report their work and commend them in our pages. We request them to understand that the fault is all their own. We have always declined to tout for any particular firm, or to commend one in preference to another. Neither do we hunt up bell news in other papers, but request each to report direct to our Editor if they desire to be recorded in our columns.—Ed.

A New Chiming Apparatus.

A new chiming apparatus, designed by Mr. G. Kingman, of Lansdown Road, Bath, has just been completed, and erected by him in the tower of the parish church, Keynsham, near Bristol. By its means one person is enabled to chime the whole ring of eight bells; and on Sunday last several tunes and changes were very effectively played on the bells by the designer and Mr. F. Goodman, a Bath amateur.

Musical Hand-Bell Ringers' Instructor.—This is a very clever and valuable addition to bell literature, and we advise all who are desirous of making progress with Hand-bells to get it from the author, Mr. Goslin, 8 Crescent, Cripplegate, London; the price is 2*s*. The *brochure* is historically most interesting.

A Correction.—In our report of the ringing and opening of the ring at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, Messrs. J. Rogers and H. Swain should have been mentioned.

DATE TOUCHES.

At Burton-on-Trent, Derbyshire.

On Thursday, the 17th ult., the parish church ringers, assisted by Mr. W. Potts, rang at the above church a date touch of 1879 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 10 mins. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At SS. Mary and Nicholas, Leatherhead, Surrey.

On Tuesday, the 30th ult., a date touch of 1879 Grandsire Caters in the tittums, was rung at the above church in 1 hr. 23 mins. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Peter's, Liverpool.

On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., a date touch of 720 changes of Kent Treble Bob Minor was rung at the above church in 31 mins. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At Birstall, Yorkshire.

At St. Peter's, Birstall, the Old Year was rung out and 1880 ushered in with a touch of 1880 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 9 mins. Tenor, 20 cwt.

1880

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 3 5 4 7 6 8
2 3 1 4 5 6 7 8
3 2 4 1 6 5 8 7
3 4 2 1 5 6 7 8
4 3 1 2 6 5 8 7
4 1 3 6 2 8 5 7
1 4 6 3 8 2 7 5
1 6 4 8 3 7 2 5

Start. 1 6 3 4 2 8 5 7
1 6 2 3 5 4 7 8

At St. George's, Hyde, Cheshire.

The New Year was ushered in by ringing a date touch of 1880 Grandsire Major. The calling once repeated. Tenor, 10 cwt.

Without the 7 in 2 it has the 6th twelve times wrong and the 5th twelve times right.

Time, 1 hr. 7 mins.

3 5 2 6 4 8 2
2 5 4 6 5 – M
4 5 3 6 2 – M
5 3 4 6 2 – H
3 4 5 6 2 – H
5 4 2 6 3 – M
4 2 5 6 3 – H
5 2 3 6 4 – M
3 2 4 6 5 – M
2 4 3 6 5 – H
4 3 2 6 5 – H
5 4 3 6 2 7 2

At Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

On Thursday, the 1st inst., a date touch of 1880 Treble Bob Royal was rung at the above church in 1 hr. 20 mins. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Stockport, Cheshire.

On New-year's Morning, immediately after midnight service, the ringers of the above church rang a date touch of 1880 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 8 mins. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. James's, Tong, Yorkshire.

On the evening of New-year's Day the ringers belonging to this church, and who are members of the Yorkshire Association, commemorated the birth of the New Year by ringing a date touch of 1880 changes in 1 hr. 7 mins. composed from the eight following methods; viz. 200 changes of College Treble, and 240 changes each of Morning Exercise, Cambridge Surprise, Primrose Tulip, City Delight, Arnold's Victory, and College Pleasure. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At Bradford, Yorkshire.

On Saturday, the 3rd inst., ten members of the Bradford St. Peter's Company, being a contingent of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London, rang at the parish church, Bradford, in 1 hr. 18 mins., a date touch of 1880 changes of Kent Treble Bob Royals. Tenor, 27 cwt.

At St. Lawrence, Pudsey, Yorkshire.

On Sunday evening, the 4th inst., six of the ringers of this church, with the assistance of Messrs. Haley and Bolland of the Tong Society, rang for the evening service, in 1 hr. 8 mins., a touch of 1880 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major. Tenor, 16 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Kirkburton, Yorkshire.

On Sunday, the 4th inst., a date touch was rung for morning service, consisting of 1880 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 8 mins. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At Diss, Norfolk.

On Tuesday, the 6th inst., being the 47th Anniversary of St. Mary's Church Bells, ringers from Eye, Kenninghall, &c., attended to enjoy a pull on its fine ring of bells. Ringing commenced (after morning service) with a date touch of 1880 changes of Kent Treble Major in 1 hr. 18 mins. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. After dinner some touches in the Kent, Oxford, and Grandsire Methods, were rung. During the past year 62,126 changes have been rung on the bells in six different methods.

At Otley, Suffolk, by the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers.

On Saturday evening, the 10th inst., a date touch of 1880 changes (consisting of 80 Grandsire Doubles, 360 Grandsire Minor, 720 ditto Hammond's peal, with a call in every lead, and 720 ditto Mr. Noyte's peal, also with a call in every lead) was rung in 1 hr. 7 mins. Tenor, 11¾ cwt., in G sharp.

Received also.—Rawmarsh Touch—no name; T. D. R. Rabbitts; C. J. Butterworth; J. R. Jerram; Matthew Jarvis—hand-bell ringing not inserted; A. C. Fussell; and others.