

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Intoning.—Choral Services.

SIR,—Surely your correspondent, 'C. T. C.', has been betrayed into a curious confusion of ideas? What can he mean by suggesting an evening service at which the prayers may be 'prayed in the natural voice?' (I have not his letter before me, and may not be quoting with literal exactness.) Is it impossible to pray in monotone? Does one necessarily pray if the voice is inflected? Let me carry his theory a little further, and say, 'Instead of singing the hymns next Sunday let us praise them in the natural voice,' or 'At the morning service we will no longer chant the Canticles, but speak them to God in the natural voice.' Does it require anything more to make manifest the absurdity of 'C. T. C.'s' theory?

There are two parts to Divine worship—(1) the inward spirit or feeling, (2) the outward expression: the latter may vary infinitely, but certainly the former is not necessarily annexed to, or absent from, any particular mode of expression. The use of a musical mode of expression (whether it be monotone or otherwise) is, I apprehend, that a number of people may join in harmonious utterance, and thus avoid discordant variations and inflections.

If your correspondent simply means to denounce bad intoning, mumbling, muttering, and gabbling, the use of too high a note for the congregation to get hold of, and all the other abuses of choral services, I am heartily with him. Let us have a crusade against these by all means: they are much too prevalent. Inexpressive and unintelligent mumbling is not intoning; but your correspondent will find that clergymen who thus pervert a musical use can read the lessons just as badly, and render the Communion Office just as unimpressively and inaudibly in the 'natural voice,' as if they used the monotone. The due and expressive, reverent and careful, use of the monotone, and of music generally, in our services, is much too great a boon to be lightly thrown away. But the time has certainly come for a loud, emphatic, and universal protest against the abuses I have indicated. A SOLICITOR.

## Ordination of Priests.

SIR,—Will some of your readers explain the meaning and extent of the words in the service for Ordination of Priests, when the Bishop says, 'Receive the Holy Ghost. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained?' An ordination has been recently held here, and these words have caused considerable discussion. B. G. J.

[The words are, in substance, a quotation of the words of Christ (St. John, xxi. 23) spoken to the disciples after His resurrection. They were addressed either to the apostles exclusively, or to the disciples as representing the whole Church. In either case they declare the will of Christ to exercise His power of pardoning sin by means of the Church, which is His representative on earth, and by His ministers who are the officers of the Church. As to the manner in which this is done there are differences of opinion. But it may be said that they have authority, (1) to preach the word of reconciliation, by which remission of sins is proclaimed. (2), To baptize into the Church, which is the covenant body, and therefore, as such, the assembly of the pardoned. (3), To excommunicate offenders, thus removing them from the covenant body, and to restore them on their repentance. It is not, of course, believed by any that mere membership in the Church infallibly secures remission of sins, or that no one who is excommunicated can be forgiven. But this is the *idea* of communion and excommunication. And the Church can recognise only her members as being in Christ, and therefore as in a state of salvation.—ED. C. B.]

## The Confession in the Communion Service.

SIR,—If 'A. B. C.' will refer to the rubric before the General Confession at Morning and Evening Prayer, he will see that the Confession is to be made 'after the minister' and he will notice that the Confession is divided into phrases, each phrase commencing with a capital letter. It seems clearly to be intended that the Confession should be rehearsed alternately by minister and people, phrase by phrase—a plan insuring great reverence and quietness, as all who have tried it know; and probably meant to suggest how the sinner is taught fitting words of confession. The case of the Confession, 'Turn Thou us,' in the Communion Service, with its rubric, is exactly similar. And it is clear that the Confession in the office for Holy Communion is to be treated in the same way. Probably the second *Pater noster* in the Holy Communion is an instance of the same kind, and an exception to the general rule of simultaneous repetition. HIPPO.

## Church Patronage.

SIR,—I gladly find that 'H. G. O.' does not mean to impute ulterior motives to the supporters of Mr. Leatham's Bill. A mistake is a very different thing to a dishonest object. One may be honestly mistaken. And so, I think, 'H. G. O.' is altogether in his argument in this case. But that I need not enter into. To show, however, 'H. G. O.' the absolute necessity of caution in his words for the future, I may remark that two brother-clergymen, to whom I handed his letter of July 29th, took it in exactly the same sense as myself, saying that that seemed to them the plain evident interpretation of the letter, and expressing surprise at such a statement being made, especially anonymously. However, of course, I frankly accept the explanation, and as frankly withdraw any expression that may have given pain. I am very glad indeed that 'H. G. O.' has explained his letter, for I do think such an explanation was necessary. In conclusion, let 'H. G. O.' be well assured that a paltry matter like the difficulty of satisfying private patrons will never prolong the existence of the Establishment one day. Reforms may strengthen us, abuses will never bolster us up. It would be one of the easiest things to satisfy private patrons at the time of Disestablishment. And it will be tenfold more easy when their adownsons have been further depreciated by another Royal Commission and a little more uncertainty and delay. Well may private patrons say, 'Save us from our friends!' F. C. GREEN.

Denmead Vicarage, Horndean.

## BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

## Surrey Association of Change-ringers.

A GENERAL Meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Oct. 9th. Gentlemen attending will be conveyed at reduced fares by the L. and S. W. R. Short special service in the parish church. All members and ringers cordially invited. Further particulars next week. A. B. PERCEVAL, Hon. Sec.

## The 'Egyptian Surprise.'

SIR,—The 'Egyptian Surprise,' as published in your last issue, was a surprise indeed to every one who saw it and a disgrace to the party who sent it for publication. It is evident he is no ringer—trying to deceive the ringers at large by a false representation of Churchyard Bobs. It was published in another paper as 'Lincolnshire Exercise'—such an exercise as the reporter would like to make popular in this district! R. MACKMAN.

Spalding.

## CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Parish Church, Mottram in Longdendale, Cheshire.—Muffled Peal.

On Saturday, the 23rd ult., a mixed band rang the following peal of 5088 Kent Treble Bob Major in 2 hrs. 50 mins.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5088      | M. | B. | W. | U. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| R. Wright, 1; H. Shaw, 2; T. Wilde, 3; S. Wood (conductor), 4; J. S. Wilde, 5; G. Longden, 6; J. Thorpe, 7; J. Bailey, 8. The above peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a last token of respect to the late Mr. Thomas Shaw, who was for upwards of fifty years a ringer at the above church. He had rung many peals on 8, 10, and 12 bells, from 5000 to 10,000 changes. Tenor, 14 cwt. | 3 5 4 2 6 | 1  | -  | -  | -  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2 3 5 6 4 | -  | -  | -  | 2  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2 5 6 3 4 | 1  | -  | -  | 2  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5 3 6 2 4 | 1  | -  | -  | 1  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5 3 2 4 6 | -  | -  | -  | 1  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2 4 2 5 6 | 1  | -  | -  | -  |

Twice repeated.

## At St. Mary's, Putney, Surrey.

On Monday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 3 hrs. 3 mins. W. A. Tyler (conductor), 1; F. Weare, 2; H. Cutter, 3; B. J. James, 4; C. F. Winney, 5; R. Shilby, 6; J. Jackman, 7; D. Newton, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

## At St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlesex.

On Monday, the 25th ult., a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original) was rung in 3 hrs. 10 mins. J. Mansfield, 1; J. Page, 2; T. Tit-chener, 3; T. Gleed, 4; A. Jacob, 5; J. Hannington (conductor), 6; J. Barrett, 7; W. Strange, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt.

## At Somerleyton, Suffolk.

On Monday, the 25th ult., six of the Somerleyton Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang touches of 360 Violet Treble Bob, 360 Kent Treble Bob, 360 Oxford Treble Bob, 360 Grandsire Minor, 442 Plain Bob Minor, making in all 1882 changes, in 1 hr. 5 mins. R. J. Kittle (composer and conductor), 1; G. Rudd, 2; J. Orford, 3; James Orford, 4; H. Orford, 5; R. Wilson, 6. Tenor, 11 cwt., in G.

## At All Saints', Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, Berks.

On Tuesday, the 26th ult., a touch of 910 Grandsire Triples was rung in 35 mins. J. Eldridge, 1; J. W. Wilkins, 2; G. Wilkins, jun., 3; H. Rogers, 4; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 5; R. Smith, 6; E. Rogers, 7; E. Keeley, 8. Tenor, 17½ cwt.

## At St. Leonard's, Hythe, Kent.

On Thursday, the 28th ult., several members of the County Association met the Messrs. Finn, who are engaged in refitting the Saltwood bells, and rang a touch of 1008 Bob Major, besides several touches of Grandsire Triples. In Bob Major:—F. Fisher, 1; J. Harrison, 2; H. Down, 3; S. Barker, 4; G. Finn, 5; A. Moorcraft, 6; F. Slingsby, 7; F. Finn, 8. In Grandsire:—Down, 1; Harrison, 2; Fisher, 3; Barker, 4; G. Finn, 5; F. Finn, 6; Slingsby, 7; Moorcraft, 8. The evening was finished with tune and change-ringing on hand-bells.

## At St. Mary's, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

On Friday, the 29th ult., in commemoration of the eighteenth opening of the bells, a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor was rung in 26 mins. G. Hale (conductor), 1; H. Smith, 2; E. Hinton, 3; J. Nix, 4; E. Bush, 5; A. Cole, 6. Tenor, 11 cwt.

## At St. Nicholas', Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

On Saturday, the 30th ult., being the eve of the eighty-eighth birthday of that veteran ringer, Mr. Thomas Gooch of Yarmouth, the St. Nicholas' Company rang on the eight large bells a touch of 1344 Grandsire Triples in 50 mins., containing the twenty-four 6-7's, being the greatest number obtainable by bobs only. W. Chaplin, 1; W. T. Blyth, 2; W. Lee (conductor), 3; W. Secret, 4; W. Fletcher, 5; D. Hayward, 6; M. Long, 7; H. Wright, 8. Tenor, 30 cwt. [We have received another communication, in which the sixth bell is given to D. Shalma.]

Also on Sunday morning, the 1st inst., being the birthday, and for church service, a touch of 336 Grandsire Triples was rung in 14 mins. W. T. Blyth, 1; W. Lee (conductor), 2; R. Christian, 3; W. Secret, 4; W. Fletcher, 5; D. Hayward, 6; M. Long, 7; W. Chaplin, 8. And in the afternoon a touch of 503 Grandsire Triples in 20 mins. W. T. Blyth, 1; W. Lee (conductor), 2; M. Long, 3; W. Secret, 4; J. F. W. Bray, 5; W. Fletcher, 6; D. Hayward, 7; W. Chaplin, 8. Mr. Gooch was a ringer for many years, and is well known and respected. He has rung several peals of 5040 changes each, with different companies, and on one occasion 10,080 changes.

RECEIVED ALSO:—W. A. H. is requested to send us his address. H. R. Greaves: your communication omits both the name of the town and the county! E. Curtis; and others.