

of its languages. . . . The spiritual bond uniting the two countries is the most favourable condition for extricating Abyssinia from her moral isolation.'

RUSSIA.

THE weakest point, perhaps, in the Greek Communion is the icon-worship as sanctioned by the so-called Second Nicene Council—a synod disclaimed at once in the West at the instance of Charlemagne and our own Alcuin, but subsequently more or less received before the Reformation by all Churches except the Armenian, Assyrian, and Coptic. Much of the force of the 'Stundists,' or new 'Bible-reading sect,' consists in their exposure of this corruption. One of their body has been sentenced at Odessa to three years' imprisonment for assailing it.

TEACHING HUMANITY IN SCHOOLS.

'The child is father of the man.'—Wordsworth.

A lady well known for her benevolence having contributed a considerable sum for giving away the 'Humanity Series of School Books' to poor schools, the managers of many others have made urgent appeals for the like gifts. The extreme difficulty with which such schools are maintained is only too well known.

Donations for the purpose to the 'Humanity Fund' are received by the Messrs. Barnetts, Hoares, & Co., Lombard Street, London; and the Rev. F. O. Morris, Nunburnholme Rectory, Hayton, York, of whom any information on the subject may be had.

'HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.—Public attention has been recently directed in Scotland to the importance of encouraging the humane treatment of the lower animals. The Highland and Agricultural Society, on the 31st of March last, sent a circular to 970 teachers of the Scotch School Board, in which they suggested that the subject should be recognised as a necessary element in education, and pointed out that if opportunities were taken in primary schools systematically to inculcate on the children lessons of humanity, very beneficial results might be expected to follow. The School Board of the Borough of Greenock called attention to the same subject in a letter dated the 17th of February last, which they addressed to the school-teachers and managers within the district under their control. They recommended that the teachers in all the public schools should take opportunities, perhaps once or twice a-week, of giving lessons on the domestic and other animals, to excite the interest of the children in their structure, habits, and uses, and to stimulate them to the careful management and kindly treatment of them. The Board reminded the teachers that a large part of their duty consists in producing such results, and that it is fully as important as making the children proficient in reading, writing, and arithmetic, while it is apt to be comparatively neglected from the influence of the present system of distributing grants in aid.'—*Times*, May 4th, 1875.

The views thus expressed seem to be met exactly by the 'Humanity Series of School Books,' as stated in the following extract from the Preface to them:—

'It is not intended that the present series of School Books should supersede any of those now in use, many of them well adapted to the several purposes they are professedly intended for.

'It is meant as supplementary to them, and was only thought of to supply lessons on the great duty of Humanity to animals, while at the same time the danger of monotony, if the lessons had been confined to that one subject, has been avoided by the introduction of other topics for the encouragement of "every good word and work."'

The books will be supplied at half-price, and can be sent to any National Schools as may be desired by the donors.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Worcester Diocesan Change-ringing Association.

ON Tuesday, the 30th ult., four members of the local company of St. Andrew's Society, Netherton, assisted by Messrs. William Micklewright, sen. and jun., rang in 29½ mins. a peal of 720 Plain Bob, with the bells half muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Mrs. Blanche Skidmore (the donor of the bells), it being the twelfth anniversary of her death. The ringers were R. Round, 1; W. Micklewright, sen., 2; J. Townsend, 3; J. Robinson, 4; W. Micklewright, jun., 5; J. Smith, 6.

Also on Sunday, the 4th inst., before evening service, with the same band, stationed as above, a peal of 720 of Kent Treble Bob in 29 mins. This is the first peal ever rung upon the bells in this method, and the first by all the above members. Also at the same time, with the same band, a peal of 720 Plain Bob in 28 mins. Also after service a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor in 27½ mins., by the following:—J. Prestidge, 1; F. Hotchkiss, 2; W. Micklewright, sen., 3; J. Robinson, 4; W. Micklewright, jun., 5; J. Smith, 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt. The whole of the above were conducted by W. Micklewright, jun. The three peals rang on Sunday were in commemoration of the unveiling of a brass tablet in mahogany frame, which has been placed in the tower in memory of the donor of the bells, and bears the following inscription:—'The peal of six bells in this tower were presented by Mrs. Blanche Skidmore, and rang for the first time Dec. 31st, 1871.' The tenor bell also bears the following inscription:—'This peal of six bells was presented by B. S., as a late thankoffering to God for many mercies. J. J. Slade, M.A., Vicar.'

Two Peals of Bob Major.

5600	W.	M.	H.	5600	W.	M.	H.
2 3 4 5 6				2 3 4 5 6			
1 2 3 5 6	—			6 4 3 5 2	—		
6 3 2 5 4	—			2 3 6 4 5	—		
2 6 3 5 4	—			6 2 3 4 5	—		
3 2 6 5 4	—			3 6 2 4 5	—		
6 5 3 2 4	—			5 2 6 4 3	—		
3 6 5 2 4	—			6 5 2 4 3	—		
5 2 3 6 4	—			3 2 5 4 6	—		
3 5 2 6 4	—			5 3 2 4 6	—		
2 3 5 6 4	—			2 5 3 4 6	—		
5 6 2 3 4	—			3 5 6 4 2	—		

Each peal four times repeated.

BENJAMIN FRANCIS, *Diss.*

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Durham and Newcastle Association rang 5008 changes of Plain Bob Major (the first peal ever performed on these bells) in 2 hrs. 55 mins. W. Eggleston,* 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; R. Wignell, 3; W. Bowes,* 4; F. Lees, 5; H. Thompson,* 6; W. Story, 7; R. S. Story* (first as conductor), 8. Composed by A. Knight of Chesterfield. This is the first peal of Major rung in this town and the first of Plain Bob by the Association, and by all the above except F. Lees. [* Their first peal.]

Also on Monday evening, the 29th ult., a touch of 1008 Grandsire Triples was rung in 36 mins. H. Ferguson, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; R. S. Story, 3; W. Bowes, 4; F. Lees, 5; T. J. Des Forges, 6; T. Denton, 7; W. Story, 8. This touch, taken from Holt's Original, was conducted by C. L. Routledge. Also another touch of 714 of the same in 25 mins. R. J. Robson, 1; W. Bowes, 2; W. Story, 3; C. L. Routledge, 4; F. Lees, 5; T. J. Des Forges, 6; T. Denton (conductor), 7; R. S. Story, 8.

At Iwerne-Minster, Dorset.

ON Tuesday, the 30th ult., a final test-peal was rung, by the Blandford ringers, on the completion of the rehanging of the bells at the sole expense of Lord Wolverton, they having been silent for many years.

On New-year's Eve the Iwerne men handled the ropes and rang a muffled peal, finishing with a peal to welcome the birth of 1885.

At Llandaff.

ON the last Saturday of the old year, the bell-ringers of the Cathedral were entertained at a supper given by the Dean and Chapter. The Ven. the Archdeacon, seconded by the Succentor, did the honours of the table and dispensed the excellent fare of roast beef, goose, plum-pudding, mincepies, and other sweets, served in capital style by the hostess of the 'Maltsters' Arms.' Upon the removal of the cloth, various loyal and other toasts were given in felicitous terms by the Ven. Chairman, and received with great applause. The Ven. the Archdeacon left shortly afterwards; not, however, before a hearty vote of thanks to him had been passed for his able and genial occupation of the chair. The rest of the evening passed very pleasantly in jest and anecdote, toasts and singing.

At Tiverton, Devonshire.

ON Saturday, the 3rd inst., eight members of the St. Peter's Society rang a date-touch of 1885 Grandsire Triples in 1 hr. 20 mins. R. Grater, 1; E. Munday (conductor), 2; R. Grater, jun., 3; T. Woodward, 4; J. Babbage, 5; J. Grater, jun., 6; J. Grater, 7; J. Hosegood, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt. This touch was adapted (after the first 21 changes) from part of the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal by Miss E. Cruwys Sharland, of Rose Bank, Tiverton.

At St. George's, Hyde, Cheshire.

ON Saturday, the 3rd inst., eight members of the United Counties Association rang a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples (Taylor's Bob-and-Single Variation) in 2 hrs. 56½ mins. T. Bradley, 1; J. Blakeley, 2; R. Woolley, 3; O. Dixon (his first peal), 4; J. S. Wilde, 5; T. Wilde, 6; T. Dixon (conductor), 7; S. Bradley, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs. This is the first peal of Grandsire Triples recorded by the above Association.

At the Parish Church, Palgrave, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 3rd inst., six members of the Diss company rang a peal of 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor in 24 mins. E. Hayward, 1; C. Webster, 2; J. Clark, 3; E. Francis, 4; B. Francis (conductor), 5; J. Souter, 6.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.—Muffled Peal.

ON Sunday, the 4th inst., the ringers of the above church, after attending the funeral, rang a muffled peal as a last token of respect to Mr. John Chapman, who died on New-year's Day at the age of thirty-nine, from shock to the system after amputation of the right arm. He had been a ringer and member of the Society of College Youths for over twenty years. A 672 of Grandsire Triples was afterwards rung. H. Weeks,* 1; B. Spinner,* 2; H. D. Davis,* 3; W. King,* 4; F. Hayes, 5; J. Aitkin,* sen. (conductor), 6; W. Harper,* 7; J. Aitkin, jun., 8. [* College Youths.]

At Somerleyton, Suffolk.

ON Monday, the 5th inst., the Somerleyton branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers rang a date-touch of 720 changes of Oxford, 720 Grandsire Minor, 360 Kent, and 85 of Plain Bob Minor, in 1 hr. 5 mins. R. J. Kittle (conductor), 1; G. Rudd, 2; John Orford, 3; James Orford, 4; H. Orford, 5; R. Wilson, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt., in G.

RECEIVED ALSO.—'Ignorant Ringer' has not sent his name,