

Porter carried a resolution of the Court of the General Synod to the fact that this was mainly part of a surplus for Primate Boulter's fund, given originally for the purpose of increasing the value of small benefices.

The Archdeacon of Cork moved the adoption of the Board of Missions' Report, which, he said,—

'Showed that notwithstanding the disadvantageous circumstances of the country, they had received from foreign missions 2000*l.* more than in previous years. The receipts were as follows:—Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 1973*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with 1511*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* in 1883; the Church Missionary Society, 7042*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, as against 5892*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, 3608*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, as against 3254*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*; the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 723*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, as against 682*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*; the South American Missions, 704*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, as against 729*l.* 17*s.*; and the South African (Bloemfontein), 1057*l.*, as against 89*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*: the totals being 14,158*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, and 12,159*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* respectively.'

Dr. Chadwick got leave to withdraw his resolution on the subject of Church patronage.

Judge Warren moved for leave to bring in his Bill to amend the Chapter of the Constitution of the Church regulating the Election to the Primacy.

The Chairman put the resolution, with the addition,—

'But that all further progress thereof be stayed until the Diocesan Synods of Armagh and Clogher shall have had an opportunity of expressing their opinion thereon.'

Whereupon the Bill was read a first time *pro forma*.

The business of the Synod was then concluded, after a session of eight days.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN CHURCH NEWS.

UNITED STATES.

In Mississippi, at Vicksburg, a number of coloured people applied to the Rev. Dr. Sansom to establish them a church. He was enabled to take steps accordingly by Assistant-Bishop Thompson, who has had three other like applications from coloured people, all of whom want white pastors.

MADAGASCAR.

A new work, *Madagascar and France*, by Mr. Shaw, of the L. M. S., casts new light on the great African Island. It appears that the Hovas, the dominant race, are of Malay origin, and must have landed somewhat earlier than the Norman conquest of England. On the east coast a good deal of European admixture is now seen, while on the west and north-west there is a considerable African and Arabic infusion. Mr. Shaw shows in detail the baselessness of the French 'claims.' Slavery and spirit-drinking are two evils which the native government is now seeking to abate. Much social progress has been made since the accession of the present queen. The English Church Mission, the L. M. S., the Norwegian Mission, and the French Jesuits, are at work; but the French war will retard them all. Mr. Shaw justly observes of the Malagasy Christians: 'Their practical Christianity and faithfulness under that trying dispensation of Providence, have completely silenced those detractors who prophesied that, at the first breath of calamity, they would revert to their ancient idolatry and superstition.'

INDIA.

We are happy to observe that the visit of the Revs. Messrs. Fenn and Barton of the C. M. S. to Ceylon has resulted in the removal of the difficulties between the Bishop of Colombo and that Society.

'HOSPITAL Sunday' collections in Calcutta show, like those of London, our communion at their head. Last year the various bodies there gave: Church of England, 25,021*l.*; Congregationalists, 2101*l.*; Wesleyans, Baptists, and Jews, about 1000*l.* each; Presbyterians, 760*l.*; Roman Catholics, 523*l.*; Unitarians, 245*l.*; Quakers, 162*l.*; Greek Church, 105*l.*; three Methodist sects, 105*l.* together; Swedenborgians, 100*l.*; German Lutherans, 50*l.* The *Indian Churchman* does not specify in this list the Armenians, whose numbers and generosity surely must have made their item considerable.

GERMANY.

The *Evangelischer Anzeiger* urges it as a duty, 'self-preservation,' to attempt to stem the progress of Romanism in Prussia. First in Silesia, and now in West Prussia—thus in two more provinces—Romanism has won a majority. In 1817 the Protestant population of West Prussia exceeded the Romanists by 31,463; it is now in a minority of 10,984.

The lack of Protestant church accommodation in Berlin has hitherto called forth no effort beyond the erection of the Luther Dankeskirche, but a movement for restoring ancient churches is advancing generally.

FRANCE.

M. HYACINTHE LOYSON concluded, before Holy Week, his round of 'Conferences' in the provinces. Ten cities or towns were visited. One of his meetings—at Bordeaux—was noisily interrupted, but everywhere else audiences of thousands heard him with signal favour. The orthodox Protestants rallied round him more than ever before, and he received invitations from several Presidents of Consistories to deliver conferences. There are good reasons for this increased cordiality, for the ravages of unbelief among the Reformed may be estimated from the fact that at Nîmes, where their professed number is 18,000, only 100 *men* attend their services.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The New Ring of Bells at Staplehurst, Kent.

On Saturday, St. Mark's Day, the new ring of eight bells, cast by Mears & Stainbank of London, at a cost of 445*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, was dedicated in the presence of a crowded congregation. The first service in the belfry was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Hereford. This consisted of a few prayers, and a formal admission of the members of the Staplehurst Church Ringers' Guild, sixteen in number, with Mr. H. G. Pope as Head Ringer. The Bishop likewise gave a brief and practical address to the newly admitted on the duties and responsibilities of their holy office. At 3 p.m. the belfry steps were again mounted, and the Bishop read the prayers which formally dedicated the new ring, in the presence of several gentlemen and the Staplehurst Bell-ringers' Guild, and a band of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who had come down from London to ring the opening peal. Immediately after the prayers were concluded the bells sounded forth, being rung with the greatest precision by the experts to whose hands the ropes were entrusted. At 3.30 the general service was commenced, with the Old Hundredth Psalm as a processional hymn. The Curate read shortened evensong, the 122nd and 150th being chanted as special psalms, while the Rector read two passages of Scripture, viz. Exod. xxviii. 30-37, and Zech. xiv. 20. After the *Magnificat*, hymn 316 (*Church Hymns*) was sung, and after the third collect, the anthem, 'Oh, how amiable.' The prayers being ended, a short peal on the bells ensued, which was followed by a special hymn. The Bishop then preached a most suitable and earnest sermon from Exod. xxxix. 43, which was listened to with rapt attention. Hymn 509 was then sung, and an offertory to cover some expenses connected with preparing the tower for the reception of the bells collected, which amounted to 20*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.* The weights of the bells are:—21, 15, 12, 9, 8, 7, 6, and 6 cwt. The inscriptions are:—Treble, 'Praise to God the Eternal Father. G. F. Reynier, S.T.P., Rector, 1885.' 2nd, 'Praise to God the Eternal Son. J. H. C. McGill, M.A., Curate, 1885.' 3rd, 'Praise to God the Eternal Spirit. J. Nunn, William Wickings, Churchwardens, 1885.' 4th, 'This Bell is in place of one cast in 1748. God bless the Church.' 5th, 'This Bell is in place of one cast in 1663. God bless the Queen.' 6th, 'This Bell is in place of one cast in 1594. God bless Staplehurst.' 7th, 'Joseph Hatch made me, Henry Turner, C.W.; William Woolless, C.W., 1605 T.S.' Tenor, 'This Tenor, which is in place of one cast in 1649, and 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and Treble Bells, were cast by Mears & Stainbank in 1885. Dona Dei Deo.'

North Lincolnshire Association.

THE First General Annual Meeting of the members of this Association was held at Lincoln on Saturday last, and was attended with the greatest possible success. Prior to the meeting several touches were rung on the St. Peter's-at-Gowts bells, by mixed bands. By the kindness of the Vicar of the parish the meeting was held in the St. Peter's-at-Gowts school-room, where, at four o'clock in the afternoon, a large number of members attended from Gainsborough, Market Rasen, Nocton and Dunston, the three Lincoln branches also being well represented. In addition to these, the Association was honoured with the presence of brethren from Spalding, Boston, Retford, Nottingham, Newark, and other places. In the absence of the President (F. A. Dorrington, Esq.), Mr. F. F. Linley of Gainsborough, one of the Vice-presidents, was voted to the chair. A number of letters were read from several gentlemen apologising for their absence, and amongst the correspondence was a communication from Sir Charles Anderson, expressing his willingness to become a subscriber. The accounts for the past year, which had been audited, were presented and passed, and showed a balance in hand of over 8*l.* F. A. Dorrington, Esq., of Nettleton Lodge, Caistor, was unanimously re-elected President, and the Rev. A. G. Musson of Lincoln, and Mr. F. F. Linley of Gainsborough, Vice-presidents. As Mr. T. Gibbons, of Market Rasen, had expressed a desire to relinquish the duties of Secretary, Mr. W. Lunn, of Market Rasen, was unanimously chosen to fill the vacancy, and Mr. H. Gadd, of Market Rasen, was re-appointed Treasurer. Over twenty new members were enrolled, as well as several honorary members. Before the meeting closed, votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. A. G. Musson and the Lincoln executive for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting of the Association, to the Vicar of the parish for the use of the schoolroom, and to the Chairman for presiding. A model of a bell hung in position for ringing was exhibited in the room, as well as some interesting relics. After the meeting the members of the Association and the visiting ringers partook of an excellent tea together in an adjoining room, the cost being defrayed out of the Association funds. In the evening many of the members visited four of the towers in the grand old city, and rang a variety of touches. Every part of the meeting was thoroughly harmonious in its character, and augured well for the future success of the Association. Whilst the repast was being discussed, six of the Lincoln brethren rang several tunes on their musical hand-bells, and they were followed with a course each of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, double-handed, by four of the Market Rasen brethren. Before closing this Report the members of the Association wish to publicly thank the Rev. A. G. Musson, the Lincoln executive, and the rev. gentlemen concerned, for the manner in which they contributed towards the great success of this the first annual meeting of the Association.

W. LUNN, *Hon. Sec.*

Death of an Old Ringer.

On Sunday, April 19, 1885, at Wednesbury, Staffordshire, died William Brittain, aged 76 years. He was a good ringer in his day, having rung peals of 5000 changes and upwards in the Grandsire method. He was buried in

the family vault on Friday at Wednesbury, when ringers from Tipton, West Bromwich, Dudley, and Wednesbury, rang muffled peals upon the bells of the parish church. An attempt was made to ring a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, but, owing to the 'go' of the bells, it could not be accomplished. J. Foster, 1; E. Fellows, 2; W. R. Small, 3; T. Foster, 4; J. Lawton, 5; S. Spittal, 6; J. Foster (conductor), 7; J. Fullwood, 8. Tenor, 23 cwt.

Muffled Peals at Salisbury in Memory of the Rev. C. L. Bode.

WE regret to announce the death of the Rev. C. L. Bode (curate of St. Edmund's, Salisbury, and a member of the Committee of the Sarum Diocesan Ringers' Guild), which took place on Saturday, 18th ult., after little more than a week's illness. Only as lately as Easter Day Mr. Bode preached and took part in the ringing at St. Edmund's. The funeral took place on 22nd ult., and was attended by a large number of people, including the Dean of Salisbury, the Archdeacon of Sarum, and many of the clergy. Muffled peals were rung as follows:—At St. Edmund's a plain course of Grandsire Triples by Messrs. Harris, Anderson, Parsons, Foster, Rigden, Jerram, Blackburn, Gifford, Allett, and Printz. Tenor, 30 cwt. At St. Martin's, 360 Bob Minor by Messrs. Anderson, Foster, Clements, Gifford, Blackburn, and Jerram; after which the age of the deceased (32) was rung, whole pull and stand and tenor a whole pull. Tenor, 15 cwt.

Muffled Peals at Tibenham, Norfolk.

CHARLES NUDDS, for seventeen years the respected sexton of this parish, was buried on Sunday, the 19th ult. In the evening a muffled peal in his memory was rung on the beautiful bells in this tower. The peal consisted of 720 Oxford Treble Bob. It was the first time that this method, in a muffled peal, has been known to have been rung at Tibenham. The ringers were as follows:—R. and W. Nudds being sons, and E. Websdale grandson, of the deceased. G. Manser (conductor), 1; R. Nudds, 2; G. E. Manser, 3; J. Jackson, 4; W. Nudds, 5; E. Websdale, 6.

On account of the sad and unexpected event of the burial of Joseph Coleman, the parish clerk, on the Sunday succeeding that in the above notice, the bells were rung again, in muffled peal, last Sunday afternoon, April 26.

The Raunds, Wellingborough, and District Society of Church-bell Ringers.

THIS Society will hold its annual meeting at Finedon on Monday, May 11th, when peals will be rung by the following teams:—Raunds, Finedon, Ringstead, Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Burton Latimer. Service in St. Mary's at 12.15 p.m., when the Rev. G. W. Paul, M.A., vicar of Finedon, will preach.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. George's, Camberwell, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 6th ult., eight members of the College Youths rang Holt's Original One-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 52 mins. J. Bonney, 1; W. Cicil, 2; M. A. Wood, 3; H. J. Shade, 4; I. G. Shade (conductor), 5; A. Hayward, 6; J. West, 7; J. Munday, 8.

At St. Peter's, Hindley, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 18th ult., the ringers of the above church, assisted by Mr. J. W. Hall, of the parish-church ringers, rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 52 mins., in honour of the fifty-fifth birthday of Richard Pennington, Esq., J.P., of Hindley Lodge and Muncaster Hall, Rainford. J. Prescott (conductor), 1; E. Prescott, 2; E. Brown, 3; W. Chisnell, 4; E. Kay, 5; T. Tickle, 6; J. W. Hall, 7; G. Lang (first peal), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 1 qr.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 23rd ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers rang J. Carter's Two-part peal of 5056 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 3 hrs. 26 mins. J. Jaggar, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; H. Wakley, 5; R. Cartwright, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal, which is now rung for the first time, has the sixth twenty-four times each way in 5-6 (see Snowdon's *Treatise* on Double Norwich, p. 37). All the above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

Also on Wednesday, the 29th ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers rang H. Dains' One-part peal of 5008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 3 hrs. 22 mins., the bells being half muffled to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Michael Thomas Bass, founder of St. Paul's and St. Margaret's Churches, Burton-on-Trent, and donor of the bells. Rev. J. H. Fish, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; H. Wakley, 5; J. Jaggar, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8.

At St. Martin's, Tipton, Staffordshire.

ON Saturday, the 25th ult., a peal of 5152 Grandsire Major was rung in 3 hrs. 8 mins. J. Jones,* 1; W. R. Small, 2; J. Tinsley, 3; W. Pardoe,† 4; T. Horton, 5; R. Hall, 6; W. Smith, 7; J. Fullwood, 8. Tenor, 12 cwt. Composed and conducted by J. Fullwood. The second, fifth, sixth, and tenor men hail from West Bromwich, the third and seventh men from Darlaston, the treble and fourth men belong to the local band. [* First peal of Major. † First peal.]

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

ON Saturday, the 25th ult., was rung for practice a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 51 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; J. W. Thompson, 2; C. Hart, 3; W. Midgley, 4; W. H. Found, 5; Dr. Knipe, 6; A. E. Thompson

(conductor), 7; T. Alton, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt. in E flat. Dr. Knipe hails from London, all the others are St. Andrew's ringers.

At Accrington, Lancashire.—Muffled Peal.

ON Sunday evening, the 26th ult., the bells of the parish church were muffled as a token of respect for the late Mr. John Higson, Secretary of the Lancashire Six-bell Change-ringers' Association. Various touches were rung for evening service. A. Scholes, 1; W. Duckworth, 2; T. Newall, 3; J. Hindle, 4; W. Ashworth, 5; C. D. Pierce, 6.

Also, after service, a muffled peal of 720 Bob Minor (16 bobs and 2 singles) was rung. T. Newall (conductor), 1; W. Duckworth, 2; T. Hodgson, 3; W. Preston, 4; W. Ashworth, 5; W. Gill, 6. Tenor, 10 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Lambeth, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 25th ult., six members of the Ancient Society of Collegio Youths rang a peal of 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 26½ mins. E. F. Strange (conductor), 1; J. Waghorn, jun., 2; A. Tennant,* 3; F. T. Gover, 4; E. Rogers,* 5; M. Murphy,* 6. Tenor, 20 cwt. [* First 720 in the method.]

At St Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

ON Monday evening, the 27th ult., for practice, a 720 Bob Minor (21 bobs and 12 singles) was rung in 26 mins. J. Welsby, 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Williamson, 4; W. Denner, 5; J. Brookes* (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Bob Minor (9 bobs and 6 singles) was rung in 26 mins. J. Welsby, 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; W. Denner, 4; J. Brookes, 5; R. Ridyard* (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13¾ cwt. [* First peals as conductors.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

Royal Academy Exhibition.

SIR,—Your readers may be glad to know that the suggestion made in your current number is being carried out in the 'Fine Art Exhibition,' to be opened on May the 19th, at the Crystal Palace. It is being established for the very purpose of enabling artists to exhibit pictures which, having been conditionally accepted by the Academy, have not been hung for want of space. These pictures may, at the wish of the painters, be passed on from the Academy directly to the emporium for transmission to the Crystal Palace. Other pictures also will be admitted, but these are to be subjected, for acceptance, to a hanging committee, comprising some well-known members of the Academy. It is feared by some that the Palace is too far out of town to attract buyers. But surely the pictures will be seen by vast numbers of visitors, who will gladly hail the opportunity afforded them by such an Exhibition as its promoters may well hope to secure. Pictures have to be sent in on the 5th of May and following days; but I am sure that the Hon. Sec., S. H. Vaughan, 60 Finborough Road, South Kensington, will gladly forward particulars to any asking for them. WILLIAM WHITE, F.S.A.

30a Wimpole Street.

Church Union in Scotland.

SIR,—My statement that those good men in the Presbyterian Church in Scotland to whom I specially referred are very far removed from the ordinary Dissenter, 'because they distinctly believe in a visible Church, in an Apostolic Succession through Presbyters, and in the transmission of a distinct power to the ordained to dispense the Sacraments of the Church,' is a simple truism, as the ordinary Dissenter distinctly denies all these things. But this statement of fact in no way commits me to a belief that their claim to these things can be fully substantiated. The fact that they acknowledge the necessity of such a note of the Catholic Church in no way proves that they have it, but it strengthens the claim on them to reunite with the Episcopal Church, which undoubtedly possesses this with other notes of Catholicity. The point to which I objected in the Bishop of St. Andrews' article on 'Union or Separation?' was the attempt to turn a statement of Bishop Gray and the South African Synod into an acknowledgment of the validity of Dutch Presbyterian orders. NELSON.

SIR,—In *Church Bells* for April 24, the Bishop of St. Andrews quotes, with satisfaction, a passage from Lord Nelson's 'Home Reunion Notes,' to the effect that Scotch Presbyterians 'distinctly believe in . . . an Apostolic Succession through Presbyters, and in the transmission of a distinct power to the ordained to dispense the Sacraments of the Church.' It is, perhaps, worth while to mention that Principal Tulloch, who may be taken as representing a large section of Presbyterians, entirely repudiates any kind of Apostolic Succession; and I believe that no trace of it can be found in any of the formularies of the Presbyterian Churches. R. E. B.

Evening Communion.

SIR,—I am most thankful for this correspondence, and trust it will lead to a large increase of Evening Communion, because I am convinced, from twenty years' experience, that very many persons can only attend church in the evening, and because I believe it to be our duty to afford every opportunity to our people to come to the 'Lord's Table.' Wherefore I both advocate and practise early morning, mid-day, and evening celebrations; but I do not teach that it is best to communicate in the early morning (though personally I prefer it), because I believe the benefit of the Sacrament is not dependent upon the hour of its reception. H. L.

Religious Bigotry.

SIR,—Allow me to protest humbly but earnestly against religious bigotry in the present day; it does untold harm to our Church and to the cause of