

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland waited on his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on Monday last, to present a loyal address on the occasion of his Excellency coming over to this country as her Majesty's representative. The deputation was received in the Throne-room of Dublin Castle, and the respective members were introduced by the Right Hon. Lord Plunket, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin, who previously read a letter from his Grace the Lord Primate, expressing his regret that bodily infirmities prevented his being present in person. His Excellency returned a gracious answer to the address, expressing gratification at the fact that he had carried in the Upper House the resolution which had enabled the clergy to commute their life-interests in their annuities, and that he had since watched with great satisfaction the efforts which they had made to get the better of the difficulties entailed by disestablishment and disendowment. All through his reply it is to be observed that the Lord Lieutenant carefully avoided the style of the 'Church of Ireland' when speaking of the Church. The understanding came to, as it is believed, to call us hereafter 'The Protestant Episcopal Church of Ireland' in all official documents, is creating great umbrage. It is contested that the State has no more right to interfere with the name we may give ourselves, which name as a matter of fact has been recognised over and over again since 1870 in Acts of Parliament, than it has to interfere with the title of any other religious body in Ireland. We were the Church of Ireland before the Union of the two countries in 1800; we then took the title of the United Church of England and Ireland, and this ecclesiastical union having been broken we became once more the Church of Ireland. As a matter of fact the Roman Catholic Church has never claimed the title, the Ultramontane character of that Church forbidding the use of national designations; and the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies have likewise never aspired to any other form than simply Presbyterians and Methodists: so that our claim to be known as the Church of Ireland remains indisputable, as it is historically true. Strong as our Protestantism is, we object particularly to the title, as if our Church dated from the times of the Reformation, when the term Protestant first came into vogue. The effect will be to make us less enamoured of the term, and perhaps there will be no harm in that. Canon Smith writes to the papers protesting against the innovation. He says:—

'The name Church of Ireland is valued by us, as embodying our belief that our doctrines are those of the primitive Church of the land, and that our succession of Bishops is unbroken since Christianity was planted here. These we believe to be simple historical facts. It is a serious matter for any oracular officials, however high, to determine this claim against us, and to affix to our Church a title plainly implying that we came into existence since the Reformation, and that the essential point of our position is proved in our protest against another body, which must in that case have the historical right to be regarded as the Church. Of course other religious bodies do not concede our pretensions. But what name is there among all those which various sects claim, and which the State equally recognises, that does not embody some assumption which other denominations if they exercised closer scrutiny could refuse to allow? Are Unitarians the only believers in the Divine Unity, or Baptists the only believers in Christian Baptism? and have Lord Spencer and Sir William Harcourt taken upon them to "settle" names for these respectable bodies?'

The Diocesan Synod of Cashel and Emly met in the former city on Wednesday week, under the presidency of the Bishop, Dr. Day. There was previously a celebration of the Holy Communion. His Lordship presided over the meeting of the Waterford and Lismore Synod on the following Tuesday, in the Protestant Hall, Waterford. The Holy Communion was previously celebrated in the Cathedral. In the former part of the united diocese the communion capital had increased during the year by 1157l., in the latter it had been reduced by 415l. A motion brought forward in Waterford by Captain R. Bagwell, and supported by Canon Warren, to authorise the Inspectors of the Diocesan Board of Education to inspect Church schools that were placed under the National Board, was rejected on division by thirty-four votes to twenty-two.

The Bishop of Killaloe has appointed the Rev. Canon W. H. Wolseley, vicar of Kilrush, co. Clare, to the Archdeaconry of Kilfenora, vacant by the death of the Ven. Arthur Tatton. The new Archdeacon was ordained in the year 1847, and is an M.A. of Trinity College, and Prebendary of Inniscaltra, in Killaloe Cathedral. He has held the benefice of Kilrush since the year 1862.

The subjects for the Bishop of Ossory's examination in connexion with the Junior Clergy's Theological Prize Fund this year, comprise Holy Scripture (the Acts of the Apostles considered historically, geographically, critically, and doctrinally); Christian Evidences (Paley's *Horae Paulinae*: Birks' *Horae Apostolicae*, and Prebendary Row's *Reason for Believing in Christianity*); Church History and Doctrine (*Barrow on the Supremacy*). The examination is fixed to take place in the ensuing month of August, and the Bishop offers prizes of 5l., 3l., and 2l., to be given respectively to the three best answers.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The College Youths at Chichester Cathedral, Sussex.

On Saturday, the 18th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths started from London; and having arrived at this old city were met by Mr. Heather, and at once conducted by him and Mr. Lambert (the kindly and obliging Sacristan) to the Cathedral, dedicated to St. Peter and the Holy Trinity. On reaching the belfry at 4.30, the order was at once given to get to work; and after the preliminary rounds, Hol's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples was achieved in excellent style in 3 hrs. 8 mins. by the following:—J. R. Haworth, 1; R. French, 2; G. Mash, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; J. M. Routh, Esq., 5; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 6; J. M. Hayes, 7; E. Horrex, 8. Tenor, 27 cwt., in E flat. This is the first true peal on the bells, many of which are more than three hundred years old. Every bell sounds very distinctly in the ringing-room, and all go well except the tenor. After the peal, all signed the elaborate Visitors' Book in the order in which they had been standing, and a short account of what took place was written therein.

After a wash in the first chamber, all adjourned to the 'Anchor Hotel,' where the band were most liberally entertained. The entire Guild sat down, the party numbering between thirty and forty. The chair was taken by R. G. Raper, Esq., for nine years (not consecutively) Mayor of Chichester, and President of the Ringers' Guild. In returning thanks, Mr. Routh, in a few excellent remarks, proposed the Mayor's health, which was seconded by Mr. Dawe, and responded to in a kind and genial manner, each visitor at the same time being handed a photograph of the Cathedral and Tower. Mr. Mash next proposed 'The Conductor,' and in responding, Mr. Dawe spoke of the great pleasure which he felt at having the honour of calling the first peal on the Cathedral bells. Other toasts followed, such as the 'Guild,' &c. Messrs. Hayes, Horrex, and French then left by the last train for London; after which the entire Guild of Ringers, seventeen in number, including the Mayor, resolved to become members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. A short touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells by J. M. Routh, 1-2; C. F. Winny, 3-4; P. E. Dawe (conductor), 5-6; J. R. Haworth, 7-8; and later on an excellent course of Stedman's Triples, Haworth and Routh changing places. The remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial manner, and some excellent songs—Mr. Haworth's 'Learned Man' being well received—and speeches brought the meeting to a close.

The next morning was spent in looking round, and the following account will probably be of interest:—The city was once a Roman settlement, called 'Regnum,' then named 'Cissa's Camp' by a Saxon prince, about the year 500. The Cathedral was commenced in the year 1100 by Bishop Ralph, and is chiefly Norman and Early Gothic. The cloisters are very good, built in the sixteenth century with the Perpendicular style of the fourteenth century. The nave is Norman, with one aisle on each side divided by a massive arcade of eight arches, and an additional aisle in Early English outside each of these was added about the time of Henry III., thus possessing a peculiarity unknown to any other cathedral. An old oak chest in the north aisle, as sound as ever, with curious old locks, is believed to be a thousand years old, as it originally came from Selsey Cathedral, a few miles south, the site of which now lies buried beneath the sea. The Presbytery is famous for the stern solidity of the Norman work, gracefully combined with the lighter Gothic style. Tombs point out the frequent practice in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries of burying the heart separately from the body. In the Lady Chapel is seen the old Winchester and Oxford motto of William of Wykham, 'Manners maketh Man.' The old spire collapsed in 1861, and the new one was erected shortly after at a cost of 50,000l.: it reaches to a height of 277 feet. The bell tower is purely a campanile, built in the fourteenth century by Bishop Langton, and standing by itself, about thirty yards from the main building. It is 120 feet in height, and is one of the most commodious towers to be found anywhere. On entering the massive doorway on the ground floor the visitor finds, a little to the right, six washing-places, and as many Turkey-towels, with the same number of brushes and combs, and large looking-glasses. A most interesting feature, however, is the fact that this floor constitutes a Fire Brigade Station, the local ringers being Volunteer Firemen; the many important articles, too numerous to mention here, being arranged in picturesque order. On walking up a good stone spiral staircase, with the assistance of a rope in the middle, arranged so as to afford safety and comfort, the next place reached is the ringing-room, eighty feet from the ground, which is certainly unique in its way. Every visitor is immediately struck with the excellent appearance of the place. It is twenty-seven feet square, is lighted by four gigantic windows, and has an excellent wooden floor, with a large carpet in the middle. The circle of ropes is also one of the best that can be found. Texts in old English, written in red, black, and blue, circulate the top of each window; also texts, similarly executed, are on the top of each of the beautiful groined arches, halfway up in each corner, thus making the upper portion of the chamber octagonal. Handbells, speaking-tubes, and electric bells, also ornament the walls. A chandelier is suspended from the centre, and a gas-stove, for the winter months, stands in the centre of the room. Bookcases with choice works (it was a pleasure to see all the volumes of *Church Bells*, finely bound), writing-table, photographs, drawings, muffles, and other interesting articles, are artistically arranged; and framed Latin mottoes, such as 'Audi, Vide, Tace,' convey to the mind that we are to keep our eyes and ears open, and mouth closed. The next floor is octagonal, thirty feet square, with eight louvre board-windows, and contains the bells, some of which are more than three hundred years old, clothed with ex-

cellent ornamental inscriptions. All hang on one level on a sort of double frame, apparently one tier above the ground, with sawdust underneath to modify the sound. They have lately been rehung by Messrs. Taylor, and a large Bourdon hour-bell, by the same firm, weighing 73 cwt., in B flat, is at one end in a separate frame; and this, with the Westminster Chimes on the 2, 3, 4, 7, marks the fleeting hours. The next landing-place is the roof, from which a fine view is obtained of the English Channel. The tower is now in the charge of a guild of ringers, who do not receive payment for their services. The customary fees are paid to them for ringing, and deposited in a fund, from which the necessary expenses are paid. The whole tower is a credit to the President, the Guild, and Mr. Falconer, the steeple-keeper. The very best thanks of the visitors are now given, through the medium of *Church Bells*, to the President and the Ringers' Guild of the City of Chichester.

In the afternoon a delightful drive of about sixteen miles was enjoyed, the first object being Chichester Cross, built by Bishop Storey; it is fifty feet high, and one of the finest of its kind in the kingdom. Bognor was reached, and after an hour's walk by the seaside the party drove back for tea.

On Sunday evening Messrs. Dawe and Routh left for London, leaving Messrs. Haworth, Mash, and Winny, who, on Monday, broke their journey to London at Arundel, and were pleased to look over the castle, the fine old parish church of the Holy Trinity, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Mr. Blackman kindly got a band together in the evening, and Messrs. Balchin, Mash, Blackman, Haworth, Wilkinson, Winny, Rev. R. F. Tomkins, and C. Bartlett, Esq., rang a touch of Grandsire Triples at the parish church (tenor, 14 cwt., cast by Mears); also two separate courses on the handbells—Wilkinson, Haworth, Winny, and Rev. R. F. Tomkins. The Rev. R. F. Tomkins, C. Bartlett, Esq., Mr. Blackman, and another, wished to become members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and they were elected at the Society's meeting-house. London was reached on Monday evening. On the way to Chichester on Saturday, Haworth, Mash, and Horrex broke the journey at Horsham, where there is a ring of eight bells (tenor, 24 cwt.), in the tower of St. Mary's Church, which is said to be one of the grandest churches of the Sussex Weald. The ringing-room is being put in good order, and Mr. Vaughan, one of the ringers, kindly accompanied them in the inspection of the fine old church.

St. James's Society, London.

On Monday, the 27th inst., the annual election of officers of the above company took place at the 'Crown Hotel,' Essex Street, Strand, when the following persons were elected:—Master, Mr. McLaughlin; Secretary, Mr. Newton; Treasurer, Mr. Albone; Steward, Mr. Church. The meeting of the Society takes place every fortnight from the above date.

The Winchester Diocesan Guild of Bell-ringers.

The sixth Annual Meeting of this Guild was held at Bournemouth on Tuesday, July 21st, and about 180 members were present. At twelve o'clock there was a shortened service in St. Peter's Church, and the two special hymns and tunes were sung, and heartily joined in by those present, the tune 'Holy Bells' being used for the first time. A short but impressive sermon was preached by the Rector of Wanston. An excellent dinner having been partaken of in the Town Hall, the various bands left by train to ring at different neighbouring churches, some remaining to ring at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, and amongst them the Weybridge party, with the Secretary (the Rev. N. A. Spyers). The Bishop's Waltham, Westmeon, and Twyford men were told off to ring at Lyndhurst, a couple of brakes meeting them at Brockenhurst Station to drive them through the beautiful country of the New Forest. The Twyford men, however, failed to turn up in time for the 3.25 train from Bournemouth, and, like the 'two third-class carriages kindly provided by Mr. Verrinder at Waterloo Station for the use of the Guild,' they were seen once, but never again, during the course of the day. Possibly they entered these carriages, got locked in, and were carried to the limits of the L. & S.W. Railway, into the far West. At all events, the Twyford men lost a real treat in not going to Lyndhurst. An exhilarating drive through the magnificent oaks and beeches of the New Forest was, in itself, most enjoyable; but what will our Twyford friends say when we tell them that the Lyndhurst bells 'went,' as a Bishop's Waltham ringer once said of another peal, 'like playing the piano?' And, in addition to this, after several excellent Grandsires had been given, we found a substantial tea provided for us in the adjoining schools, through the kindness of the Vicar (Mr. Compton) and the incumbent (Mr. Coghlan), where the two Miss Broomfields presided at the table, and charmed us all with their kindness and attention. The party of twelve then drove to Lyndhurst Road Station to meet the 8.48 train to Bishopstoke and London, and we looked out anxiously for Mr. Spyers, to tell him of our happy afternoon, but we could see no sign of him; whether he had started in pursuit of the 'two third-class carriages' and the Twyford men we know not, but we are unanimous in being heartily glad that Mr. Spyers has consented to act as our Secretary again this year, and we trust he may long continue to look after the interests of the Winchester Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

Surrey Association.

The Annual Meeting was held at Oroydon by the kind permission of the Vicar on Tuesday, July 28th. Proceedings began shortly before half-past four with some Grandsire Triples on the church bells for afternoon service at five o'clock. About twenty-seven members sat down to tea at the 'Victoria Coffee Tavern' at 5.30, the Vicar taking the head of the table. After tea the usual business meeting was held under the presidency of the Vicar. The committee and officers were re-elected for the ensuing year. After a vote of thanks to the chairman the party adjourned to the church, where the Vicar held a short special service for the members of the Association, ending with an address on the 'Ministry of Bell Ringing.' He pointed out that, on each

of the various occasions when church bells are rung, the ringing is either an actual service in the worship of God, or is a preparation for such service; and ended by wishing God-speed to the Association and all its members. After the service the bells were kept going until nine o'clock in various seven-bell methods, the condition of the tenor precluding any Major being rung.

A. B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

Essex Association of Change-ringers.

On Saturday, the 25th inst., a District Meeting was held at Harwich, when upwards of thirty members assembled. Tea was provided at four p.m. at the 'Great Eastern Hotel,' and the Business Meeting followed. Eight honorary members were elected, the Rev. Canon King (Leigh), Rev. G. W. Druce (Harwich), Jas. Round, Esq., M.P., J. R. Franks, Esq., J.P., Dr. Evans, Dr. Hardwick, Mr. J. Durrant, and Mr. W. Groom. Also ten ringing members and ten probationers. No other business was transacted, and after speeches by the Vicar, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Durrant, the meeting concluded. Some good ringing was done in the course of the day in the Grandsire, Bob Major, and Treble Bob methods. The following companies were represented:—Great Bentley, Great Bromley, Boreham, Dedham, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Rayleigh, and Witham.

Anniversary of the East Lincoln Change-ringers' Association.

On the 25th inst. a meeting was held at Sibrey, where, by the kind permission of the Vicar, the beautiful ring of eight bells was placed at the disposal of the visitors. A short and hearty service was held at 1 p.m., when an address was given by the Bishop of Lincoln, who is Patron of the Association. At the lunch in the schoolroom, where more than 100 guests assembled, speeches were made by the Lord Bishop, the President of the E. L. C. R. A., Rev. H. J. Cheales, R.D., who took the chair, the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Disbrowe, E. Waite, Esq., Churchwarden, C. Garfit, Esq., and the Secretary, Mr. E. Mason, and several new members were enrolled. The bells were kept merrily going through the day, and by the hospitality of Mr. Besant, a pleasant evening was spent in the Vicarage grounds.

The Death of an Old Ringer at St. James's, Tong, near Leeds.

The ringers of this church record with deep regret the death of one of their oldest members, Mr. George Carter, on Sunday evening, the 19th inst. He had been ailing for a few weeks, though able to get about, and had been visiting his ringing friends at Birstal Church, when, on his homeward walk, he was overtaken with sudden death. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Tong Street on Thursday, being followed by a large gathering of his brother-ringers from surrounding places, a company of whom rang a peal upon the handbells at the grave side followed later by muffled peals upon the church bells.

The deceased, a stonemason, was a most enthusiastic ringer, well known both far and wide, and it would be difficult to find another to equal the distance he has walked in pursuance of his favourite pastime, it being no uncommon occurrence for him to ring at three different churches (widely apart) on a Sunday, Birstal and Liversedge being two of his favourite places: he has visited them for a great many years. In his long life he has assisted in ringing many peals of 5000 changes and upwards upon six and eight bells. He had been a ringer at this church over sixty years, having commenced when thirteen years of age, and died aged seventy-four.

CHANGE - RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Stratford, Bow, Middlesex.

On Tuesday evening, the 21st inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Original One-part Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 58 mins. A. Wood, 1; S. Joyce, 2; C. Sillitoe, 3; J. Bonney, 4; J. G. Shade, 5; H. Springall, 6; H. J. Shade (conductor), 7; J. West, 8. This peal was arranged for Charles Sillitoe, who hails from Sudbury in Suffolk, this being his first peal in the method.

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

On Thursday, the 23rd inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang a two-part peal of 5024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 20 mins. Rev. J. H. Fish, 1; H. Wakley, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; A. P. Heywood, 5; J. Jaggar (composer and conductor), 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal, which has never been previously performed, contains the 6th twenty-two times wrong and twenty-four times right. It is the sixteenth peal of Double Norwich rung by members of the St. Paul's Society, and the Conductor's fiftieth peal. All the above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

At St. Mary's, Bedford.

On Thursday evening, the 23rd inst., in honour of the marriage of the Princess Beatrice, six members of the Bedfordshire Association rang a date touch of 1885 changes in 1 hr. 3 mins. in the following methods:—85 Plain Bob, 360 College Single, 720 Kent Treble Bob, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. S. J. Cullip, 1; J. N. Frossell, 2; T. Foote, 3; J. Atkins, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; I. Hills, 6. Tenor, about 8 cwt.

At the Parish Church, All Saints', Binfield, Berks.

On Saturday, the 25th inst., a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor was rung in 27 mins. T. Woolford (first 720 Minor), 1; F. Bissley, 2; H. Rogers, 3; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 4; R. Smith, 5; E. Rogers, 6. Tenor, about 12 cwt. The above is the first peal of Minor on Binfield Bells, which were augmented to six by the addition of a treble about three years ago by Messrs. Mears & Co.