

provision was made for a representative body consisting of clergy and laity.

In 1785 the first Convention was held at Philadelphia, where seven of the thirteen States were represented by deputies, and here the Prayer-book was revised, a step which was made necessary by the changed political condition of the country. Naturally, it was of the greatest importance that the newly-organized Church should have a Bishop of her own. Already, indeed, Samuel Seabery had been sent abroad by the clergy of Connecticut for consecration, as it was impossible to accomplish it in England. He had been consecrated in Scotland; no special objection was made as to the validity of his consecration, but the general desire was that the succession should be from England. An address was accordingly sent to England, in which it was set forth that the consecration would not in any way be objected to by the executives of the various States, and the request made that the English prelates should consecrate Bishops for America. The reply of the English Bishops was favourable, but exception was taken to some of the changes which had been made in the Prayer-book. Besides some minor points the omission of the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds was objected to. After the passage of a special Act of Parliament allowing the step the Rev. William White of Pennsylvania and the Rev. Samuel Provost of New York were consecrated at Lambeth on the 4th of February, 1787. Thus the American Church was provided with three bishops.

The period of organization was naturally a critical one, but the purpose not to deviate from the main lines of doctrine laid down by the English Church was strictly adhered to. Bishop White says that 'the object kept in view . . . was the perpetuating of the Episcopal Church on the ground of the general principles which she had inherited from the Church of England and of not departing from them, except so far as local circumstances required or some very important cause rendered proper.' Again, in 1814, a declaration was issued stating that the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States is the Church formerly known by the name of the Church of England in America.

We come now to consider the organization of the Church, and have the parish as the natural starting-point. As there is no connexion between the Church and the State, the parish is not a district marked off by the limits. It is formed primarily by a number of members of the Episcopal Church voluntarily combining for common worship. Thus, in places where people are not numerous, the parish would include the whole city or town, and where there are two or more different parishes, these naturally include those who dwell in the vicinity of the several churches, though here the rule cannot be drawn sharply, as the power of a preacher or attractiveness of a church exercises considerable influence in determining the parish. Most parishes are supported by the voluntary system, and here I will point out two great advantages which the voluntary system has. First, it gives the parish a voice in choosing their minister, and the congregation is bound more closely to the church which it supports. I am aware that great evils may result from the dependence of the minister upon the congregation, but, on the other hand, it will not suit the American temperament in the least to have the appointment of the minister rest in the hands of some one outside, and often out of sympathy with the parish. From its contributions a congregation generally supports its church, maintains its minister, and pays current expenses, and in addition to this helps in a greater or less degree various mission causes. The immediate government of the parish is in the hands of a board of two wardens and six or eight vestrymen, who are elected yearly at a general meeting.

A number of parishes not less than six united form the diocese. It was natural to take the State in marking the limit of the diocese, and throughout the Union the dioceses are coextensive with the different States, except when the latter are too large. New York State, for instance, has no less than five Bishops. At the head of the diocese is the Bishop, and next to him comes the Standing Committee. This Committee consists of from five to ten members, and the committees of all the dioceses except Virginia and Connecticut are composed of presbyters and laymen. They form a council to give the Bishop advice when he calls for it, or they may take upon themselves to offer advice when it has not been asked for. When there is no Bishop, the Standing Committee is the highest ecclesiastical authority in the diocese. The representative assembly is the Diocesan Convention held yearly under the presidency of the Bishop. Here every clergyman in charge of a parish has a seat, and the parishes are also represented by laymen. This convention has control of all the affairs of the diocese which are not provided for elsewhere. Before it the Bishop delivers his annual address. Here the Standing Committee is elected,

and here are elected the delegates of the diocese to the General Convention. It will be seen, then, that there are three elements in the government of the diocese—the Bishop, the Standing Committee, and the Diocesan Convention.

The dioceses are bound together in the General Convention, the supreme authoritative body of the Church. This assembly consists of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies, in which each diocese is represented by four clergymen and four laymen. The House of Bishops has the right to originate and propose acts for the concurrence of the Lower House, and also has a negative upon the act of the House of Deputies. In the latter the clerical and lay order vote, when required, separately, and a majority by dioceses is regarded as conclusive in each order, and the concurrence of both orders is necessary to constitute a vote of the Convention. This, as I have said, is the supreme authority of the Church. The Convention meets on the first Wednesday in October in every third year, and all dioceses are bound by its acts, whether their deputies are present or not. The Convention deals with all matters which concern the whole Church. It provides for the Missionary Bishops, and upon the bases of the report which come to it from all the dioceses the Houses of Bishops publish a Pastoral Letter to the members of the Church. The powers of the Convention, however, are not without check, for when an important step has been taken, it must be made known to the several Diocesan Conventions before being finally agreed to in the General Convention.

This assembly is the most interesting feature of the Church. Here are gathered together all the Bishops, presided over by him who is oldest by consecration. In the Lower House the ablest of the clergy and the most distinguished of the laymen meet to discuss the welfare of those they represent. They acknowledge no higher earthly authority, and upon their wisdom and judgment depend the prosperity and increased usefulness of this Church.

Of the clergy I need not say much. I will confine myself to one or two points. The rules which govern candidates for Orders are very full. A candidate applies to the Bishop of the diocese in which he is actually resident, and if he is a candidate for Priest's Orders he must be a B.A., or else satisfy the Bishop in an examination that he is suitable to be a candidate. Three years from his acceptance as a candidate he can take the examination for Deacon's Orders, and then at least a year must intervene before he is ordained priest. During the time of his study the candidate is required to make periodical reports to his Bishop, either in person or in writing, with reference to the progress of his work.

The Bishops are elected by the Diocesan Conventions, the clergy and laity acting separately. When an election has been effected notice is sent to the Standing Committee of all the dioceses, the authority of which must confirm the election; and in addition to this, a majority of Bishops must approve the person chosen. However, when a Bishop is elected within a year of the meeting of the General Convention, the consent of the latter is taken in the place of these two steps. Consecration is by the Bishop oldest by consecration, the nearest approach we have to a primate, and two other Bishops nominated by him.

This is only a brief outline of the Church's organization. Of course, the time at my disposal only allows me to give the main points, but I hope that, from what I have said, it will be seen that the Church combines stability and compactness with the necessary amount of pliability.

(To be continued.)

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe.

SIR,—Our patron and our advocate with the people of England has exchanged his days on earth for a crown of glory, won after ninety-five years' sojourn here below. I refer to the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, M.A., the venerable and dear Rector of Clyst St. George, Devon. No one has done more than he to advance the science of Change-ringing, and to elevate ringers in the social scale. To his great energy and ability, more or less directly, all the county and diocesan Associations owe their birth. He has visited more towns than any other man in the land, and unearthed many an 'Ancient Briton' in the old church steeple. He has written more upon bells than any other man, and his great learning and courtesy were extended to any and every correspondent, however humble. He was the means of our earliest special organ being started in 1870; and, despite his great age, has to the last edited our columns on 'Bells and Bell-ringing.' Comrades, all! with permission of vicar and churchwarden, sometime during this month, out of respect to this good man, let us ring a muffled peal, or a date touch, or a plain course; or, at the least, let it be a round ring with the bells muffled, as a requiem.

THOS. ARCHER TURNER,
President of the Lancashire Association of Change-ringers, Manchester.

* * A muffled peal will be rung this evening (Friday, 8 p.m.) in memory of Mr. Ellacombe, by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (of which he was a member), at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, City of London. (Tenor, 54 cwt.)

St. James's Company, Trowbridge, Wilts.

THE above Company had their outing on Wednesday, the 5th inst. Proceeding to Bournemouth by an early train, they took steamer for the Isle of Wight at 10 a.m. Returning to Bournemouth at 5 p.m., they were met by Messrs. Grist and Staden of the St. Peter's Company, Mr. Romsey of London, and Messrs. Clements and Jerram of Salisbury, who happened to be staying in Bournemouth. Some of them ascended St. Peter's belfry and rang 504 and 168 Grandsire Triples in company with the above. They returned home about 8 p.m., well satisfied with their day's outing.

Pendleton, Lancashire.

On Saturday, the 8th inst., the Society of Voluntary Bell-ringers of this parish drove from Manchester to Disley; and after tea at the village inn a short address was given by the Perpetual Curate of Pendleton, J. E. Gull, M.A., who accompanied the party, and several airs were rung on the handbells under the leadership of Mr. Pendlebury, one of the oldest ringers in Lancashire. The party then proceeded to the village church of Disley, which is charmingly situated and possesses six small but well-tuned bells; and a peal of Bob Minor, together with a plain course of the same, was rung by mixed bands. The long drive of seventeen miles was rendered none the less pleasant by the fact that the villages *en route* were gay with flags and triumphal arches to greet the return of Mr. Adamson from London, after the passing of the Manchester Ship Canal Bill. Much credit is due to Mr. Henry Liddon, who organized the picnic and has long been endeavouring to maintain the Voluntary Association at Pendleton, where the old suffrage, 'Free singers and ringers,' &c., will probably never be heard again.

A Clever Performance.

At the St. Paul's Cathedral Ringers' Meeting-house, St. Paul's Churchyard, on Friday evening, the 31st ult., four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang, upon handbells retained in hand, Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 29 mins. George T. McLaughlin, 1-2; Frederick T. Gover, 5-6; Challis F. Winny, 3-4; Edward Rodgers (first peal on handbells), 7-8. Conducted by Mr. Winny. Umpire, Mr. W. Baron, of the Royal Cumberland Society. Mr. H. A. Hopkins, J. Martin-Routh, Esq., and Mr. J. M. Hayes, took down the peal as it was rung. Messrs. Haworth and Rowbotham were also present during the ringing. The peal was rung at the first attempt.

Mr. Bixby Questioned.

SIR,—In looking over your issue of the 24th of July I find that Mr. Bixby has got a very good peal of Bob Major, but there is one thing that I should like to ask him about it—if he ever saw a peal of Bob Major with more than sixty 7-8's before without a single? But he has got above ninety.

There is also another peal, which is published in last week's issue, that I should like to mention. He gives a peal of Bob Major in which the course-ends come false:—

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

This, he says, is four times repeated, when by calling H. M. brings up the fourth course-end of the first part. This I do not call composing, as he only writes the first part, and then sends it up to *Church Bells* for publication before he has time to prove it further. I hope he will learn to prove a peal before he rushes into print with one again.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

GEO. LONGDEN.

Kent Treble Bob Major.

5056 changes.						5376 changes.																	
No. 1.						No. 2.																	
2	3	4	5	6		M.	IN	OUT	5	W.	H.	2	3	4	5	6		M.	B.	W.	H.		
6	4	3	5	2	2			1		1	1	6	2	5	3	4			—	2	2		
5	6	4	2	6	3			1			2	3	5	2	6	4				—	2	2	
5	4	2	6	3	1			1		2	2	6	4	5	2	3		2	—		2	2	
4	3	2	6	5	2			1		1	2	3	6	2	4	5		2	2	—		2	2
5	2	3	6	4	1		1		1		2	6	5	2	4	3		2	2	—	1	2	2
2	5	6	3	4			1			1	2	5	4	3	2	6		2	—				
5	3	2	4	6				1				4	2	3	5	6		1	—				
3	4	2	5	6	1			1				3	2	5	4	6		1	—			1	
2	4	5	3	6	1			1		1		4	3	5	2	6		1	—	2			
4	3	5	2	6	1			1				6	5	3	2	4		2	—	1	1		
3	2	5	4	6	1			1				2	6	5	4	3			—	2			
3	4	6	2	5	2	1			1	2		4	5	2	3	6			—				
4	2	3	5	6				1				5	3	2	4	6		1	—				
2	4	5	3	6	1			1				3	4	2	5	6		1	—				
3	5	4	2	6	1			1		1		4	3	6	5	2			—	1	2		
5	2	4	3	6	1			1				3	5	4	2	6			—				
2	3	4	5	6	1			1				5	2	4	3	6		1	—				

No. 1 goes with the 6th nine times wrong and twelve times right in 5-6, and the 6th ten courses out of the last eleven at home.

No. 2 goes with the 6th three times wrong in 5-6, and twelve times wrong behind, and eleven times at home; also ten courses at home.

Sowerby, Yorkshire.

WILLIAM SOTTANSTALL.

Two Peals of Treble Bob Major.

5216														
2	3	4	5	6	M.	B.	W.	H.						
6	3	2	5	4	—	—	—	—						
6	5	4	3	2	—	2	—	—						
5	3	2	4	6	2	—	—	—						
3	4	2	5	6	—	—	—	—						
4	5	3	6	2	—	—	—	—						
5	6	4	2	3	—	—	—	—						
6	2	5	3	4	—	—	—	—						
3	6	2	4	5	—	—	2	—						
6	4	3	5	2	—	—	—	—						
6	5	2	4	3	—	—	2	—						
5	4	3	2	6	2	—	—	—						
4	2	3	5	6	—	—	—	—						

5280														
2	3	4	5	6	M.	B.	W.	H.						
6	5	4	3	2	2	—	2	—						
2	6	3	5	4	—	—	2	2						
5	2	3	6	4	—	—	2	—						
Four times repeated.														

The eight-course part to be repeated.

BENJAMIN FRANCIS, Diss.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Peter's, Hindley, Lancashire.

On Monday, the 3rd inst., a peal of Grandsire Triples (Holt's Ten-part peal) was rung in 2 hrs. 49 mins. J. Prescott, 1; W. J. Taylor, 2; H. Ellis (first peal), 3; W. Ellis, 4; J. Sholicar, 5; W. Bentham, 6; E. Bentham, 7; G. Prescott (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt. J. Prescott hails from Hindley, E. Bentham from Wigan, and the rest belong to the Ormskirk Society.

At the Cathedral Church of St. Mary, Edinburgh.—Muffled Touch

On Thursday, the 6th inst., the Cathedral Society rang a deeply muffled touch as a tribute of respect to the memory of the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, late rector of Clyst St. George, Devon. J. Johnston,* 1; W. R. Fyfe,* 2; J. R. S. Ritchie,* 3; J. C. Fyfe,* 4; C. H. Green, 5; D. Taylor,* 6; G. G. Cunningham,* 7; H. White,* 8; G. Hodgson,* 9; A. Crosbie, 10. J. Rayner,* sen., and W. C. S. Heathcote* also rang 2 and 4 respectively during part of the time. After the conclusion of the touch, which was conducted by Mr. G. Hodgson, the age of the deceased was rung in slow time on the tenor (42 cwt., in C.) by Mr. J. Rayner, the muffles having been removed. [* Members of the Ancient Society of College Youths.]

At St. Peter's, Bournemouth, Hants.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., the St. Peter's company, assisted by one or two visitors, rang their first 504 Grandsire Triples. A. Grist, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; C. Staden, 3; T. Green (conductor), 4; J. R. Jerram, 5; H. Merritt, 6; H. Romsey, 7; T. Belbin, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Margaret's, Westminster, London.

On Friday evening, the 7th inst., the following members of the Waterloo Society rang a touch of 2466 Grandsire Caters in 1 hr. 27 mins.:—S. Smith, 1; A. E. Church, 2; C. E. Malim, 3; H. J. Davies, 4; W. Baron (conductor), 5; J. W. Mansfield, 6; W. Jones, 7; H. A. Hopkins, 8; W. H. George, 9; F. G. Newman, 10. This was rung on the occasion of the birthday of the Rector, the Rev. Archdeacon Farrar, D.D., and the Society, in wishing him 'many happy returns,' also beg to thank him for the use of the bells, which he has placed at their disposal for practising the art of change-ringing.

At St. Paul's, Shadwell, Middlesex.

On Monday, the 10th inst., 5040 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original) were rung by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, in 2 hrs. 52 mins. S. Joyce, 1; L. Green, 2; C. A. Clements* (Salisbury), 3; H. Torble* (Eye), 4; F. F. Newman, 5; J. Pettit (conductor), 6; W. Prime,* 7; T. Baker, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. [* Their first peal.]

At All Saints', Hertford, Herts.

On Monday, the 10th inst., a date touch of 1885 Bob Major was rung in 1 hr. 14 mins. J. Cull, 1; J. G. Crawley, 2; W. A. Tyler, 3; H. Phillips, 4; M. Ellmore, 5; S. Knight, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; H. Baker, 8. Composed by John Hopwood of Ashton-under-Lyne, and has the 6th at home at the last nine courses. Tenor, 22 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Ware, Herts.

On Tuesday, the 11th inst., 504 Grandsire Triples were rung. J. Jauncey 1; H. Phillips, 2; M. Ellmore, 3; W. A. Tyler, 4; W. Goodchild, 5 H. Baker (conductor), 6; H. J. Tucker, 7; G. Powder, 8. Also 503 in the same method. J. Jauncey, 1; H. Phillips, 2; M. Ellmore, 3; W. Goodchild, 4; H. Baker, 5; W. A. Tyler, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; C. Halfhide, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt. W. Goodchild, G. Powder, and C. Halfhide are members of the Ware Company.

At Loughborough, Leicestershire.

On Tuesday, the 11th inst., for practice, a 312 of Stedman's Triples was rung by the Midland Counties Association. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; W. Bellinghurst, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; E. D. Taylor, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. This is the first touch of Stedman's Triples by the Loughborough band, and it may be interesting to know that all the performers are regularly employed at the Loughborough Bell Foundry.