

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE subject of united intercession for missions to the heathen has not been overlooked. The two Archbishops, on behalf of their suffragans, have addressed the following letter to the clergy of the provinces of Armagh and Dublin:—

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—An agreement, as you are aware, has been come to among the Churches of the Anglican Communion that a certain season should be observed in each year for united intercession on behalf of Missions. The time which has been finally recommended for that purpose is the fortnight from the Sunday before Advent to the Second Sunday in Advent, with preference for the eve of St. Andrew's Day. We feel assured that the members of the Church of Ireland generally are anxious to take part in this act of united supplication; and we accordingly hereby express our hope that during the season above referred to the clergy of our provinces will give to their respective flocks some opportunity of joining therein, and will, moreover, on such an occasion impress upon their people the claims which Missions at home and abroad should have upon their sympathy and support. We have not thought it desirable, under the circumstances, to prescribe any separate form of Service for use at such a time; but would suggest that (in the absence of any special recommendation from the Bishop of the Diocese) some one or more of the Collects, Psalms, and Lessons specified below might be incorporated, at the discretion of the minister, in the ordinary Service of the day. Praying that the supplications of our Church, offered at this special time, may tend largely to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom upon earth, and nothing doubting that our prayers and gifts and labours on behalf of others will bring back to ourselves an abundant blessing for the relief of our own pressing needs,—We remain, yours faithfully in the Lord,

MARCUS G., ARMAGH.
PLUNKET, DUBLIN.

The Rev. Dr. Bell, rector of Kells, Diocese of Meath, was duly installed on Thursday at 3 p.m., into the prebendal stall of Tipper in the National Cathedral of St. Patrick; at the same time the Rev. George Tottenham was installed into the prebendal stall of Donoughmore, where he represents the Diocese of Armagh.

On the 17th inst. the Archbishop of Dublin laid the foundation-stone of the 'Gregg Memorial Hall,' at the rear of the Young Men's Christian Association, 8 Dawson Street. The architect having made a short statement embodying details of the work to be undertaken, prayer was offered up by the Very Rev. the Dean of the Chapel Royal. Mr. Paul Askin, J.P., presented his Grace with a silver trowel, which was supplied by Mr. Edmond Johnson, jeweller, Grafton Street. The inscription on it was as follows:—

'Church of Ireland Young Men's Christian Association. To his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Dublin on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the Gregg Memorial Hall, 17th November, 1885.'

The Rev. Gilbert Mahaffy placed a bottle, hermetically sealed, in the cavity under the stone. The bottle contained copies of the Dublin papers of the day, a copy of the last report of the Association, a number of coins, and a parchment, on which the following was written:—

'To the glory of God, for the benefit of the young men of the Church of Ireland, and in memory of the Right Rev. John Gregg, Lord Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, the foundation stone of the Lecture Hall of the Church of Ireland Young Men's Christian Association, to be known as the Gregg Memorial Hall, is this day laid by the Right Hon. and Most Rev. William Conyngham, Lord Archbishop of Dublin. Dated this 17th day of November, 1885. Hon. Secretaries of the Association, the Very Rev. H. H. Dickinson, D.D., Dean of the Chapel Royal; the Rev. Gilbert Mahaffy, M.A.; William Graham Brooke, Esq., M.A.; Frederick R. Falkner, Q.C., Recorder of Dublin.'

The stone having been lowered to its place, his Grace touched it with the trowel and said: 'On this auspicious day, in the memory of the Rev. John Gregg, Bishop of Cork, and to the glory of God, I now lay the first stone of this Memorial Hall, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.'

The thirtieth session of the Clerical Society took place on last Wednesday and Thursday week in the Association's rooms, Molesworth Street. The opening address on 'The Revised Version' was read by the Ven. Archdeacon Scott, D.D., President; after which Revs. S. M. Harris, D.D., H. E. Ellison, and Dr. Craig spoke. At 3 p.m. a paper was read on 'The Laver of Regeneration' (Titus, iii. 5), by the Rev. R. W. Harden, and a discussion followed in which the Very Rev. H. H. Dickinson, D.D., Revs. T. Campbell, D.D., H. R. Poole, D.D., F.T.C.D., and H. Ellison, took part. Prayer, Doxology, and Benediction followed. On Thursday, the Vice-President, Rev. T. S. Berry, D.D., read a paper on 'The Church of Ireland in the Future,' the speakers being the Lord Bishop of Ossory, Very Rev. H. Townsend, Revs. R. Walsh, Campbell, M. Day, Dr. Stavelay, and Thomas Good. A spiritual paper followed, by the Rev. W. D. Pouden. 2 p.m. The last paper, on 'Plymouthism,' which was of a very useful character, was read by Rev. W. E. Burroughs, and the speakers were—Revs. S. M. Harris, R. B. Stoney, H. E. Noyes, G. Y. Cowell, &c.

The Bishop of Cashel has arranged that the examination for his silver medals in connexion with the Diocesan Board of Education will be held

in the Tipperary Parochial Schoolhouse on Thursday, 10th December. The examiners will be the Ven. the Archdeacon of Cashel, Rev. Canon Devenish, and Rev. Thomas Pike.

The Archbishop of Dublin has been in Belfast this week. His Grace preached on Sunday, on behalf of the Scripture Readers' Society for Ireland, in the parish church, and attended a public meeting in Clarence Hall on behalf of the Society on Monday evening.

THE TRUTH ABOUT FREE SCHOOLS.

THE Rev. J. Glendinning Nash, M.A., incumbent of Christ Church, Woburn Square, has compiled a few facts from the last Blue Book of the Committee of Council on Education in the hope that they may be useful in exposing the fallacy of Mr. Chamberlain's Scheme of Free Education.

'In the Board Schools last year there were 1,121,964 scholars in regular attendance. The total expenditure of the Boards, including establishment charges, was 5,745,660*l.*; that is, each scholar cost, on the average, 5*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*

'In the Voluntary Schools there were, last year, in regular attendance 2,175,594 scholars. There were, therefore, one million and fifty-four thousand MORE scholars in the Voluntary than in the Board Schools! These cost the country to educate only the amount of the Government grant, which was, in 1884, 1,667,510*l.*, as the remaining charges were met by voluntary subscriptions and school fees. The expenditure, therefore, from public sources for each scholar was only 15*s.* 4*d.*, which is six times less than the cost of Board-school scholars!

'If the Voluntary Schools were closed by the introduction of free education, as they inevitably would be, and their 2,175,594 scholars transferred to Board direction, to be educated at the present Board School average of 5*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* per scholar, the cost to the country would be 11,140,854*l.*, instead of 1,667,510*l.* This, added to the present expenditure of 5,745,660*l.*, by School Board, would raise the total cost of FREE EDUCATION to £16,886,518.

'The results of the introduction of free education, apart from the discontinuance of RELIGIOUS instruction, for free education would be SECULAR, would be:—

- '(i.) The loss of 2,468,284*l.* now received in subscriptions and fees.
- '(ii.) The additional and needless cost to the country, multiplied six times over, of the education of the 2,175,594 scholars now in Voluntary Schools, and—
- '(iii.) An enormous educational expenditure amounting to 16,886,518*l.*

'The question is, How could the cost of free education, which would amount to nearly SEVENTEEN MILLIONS, be met?

'It could not be by TAXATION, for the rates would be TREBLED.

'It could not be by the confiscation of the revenues of the Church of England, for they do not amount to a THIRD of the cost of free education;

'Nor could such a sum be met out of Imperial revenue, for no Chancellor of the Exchequer would consent to the addition of Seventeen Millions to the Budget.

'Therefore it is clear that Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of free education is FINANCIALLY IMPOSSIBLE, without the addition of an overwhelming burden to the ratepayers, and an irreparable injustice to the supporters of Voluntary Schools.'

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Funeral Peal at St. Saviour's, Southwark, London.

On Tuesday, the 24th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a deeply muffled peal in memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. Afterwards, a course of KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, and a course of STEPMAN'S CINQUES, in which Mr. Heywood of Duffield Bank, Derby, took part. J. Pettit, 1; J. W. Rowbotham, 2; G. A. Muskett, 3; G. T. McLaughlin, 4; J. M. Routh, Esq., 5; J. R. Haworth, 6; T. E. Dawe, 7; C. F. Winny, 8; G. Dorrington, 9; W. D. Smith, 10; E. Horrex, 11; J. M. Hayes, 12. Tenor, 52 cwt., in B flat.

The deceased gentleman was the second son of the Rev. John Snowdon, M.A., Cantab, the late Vicar of Ilkley, Yorkshire, and was born at Ilkley on the 18th June, 1844, and educated at Rossall. He was, therefore, at the date of his death 41 years of age. He had never been married, and when we say that he had the hearty respect of all Ilkley we must add that it is by no means limited to so narrow a sphere, for throughout Yorkshire, and indeed to a great extent all over England, had his fame reached and become esteemed.

Sudden Death of Mr. Cooper, of Loughborough.

We regret to record the very sudden death of Mr. Thomas Cooper, of Loughborough, who died in his workshop on Saturday, the 14th inst. Mr. Cooper had been for many years a member of the Midland Counties' Association, and was a regular attendant at the practices at All Saints' Church, Loughborough. On Tuesday, the day of the funeral, his brother-ringers met and attempted a muffled peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing an hour, owing to one of the

muffles becoming loose. A. Cresser, 1; W. T. Bellinghurst, 2; C. Smith, 3; J. W. Taylor, Esq., sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 6; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. The above are all regularly employed at the Bellfoundry, where Mr. Cooper was well known and a frequent visitor, having had all the painting of the premises for many years entrusted to his hands.

Surrey Association.

A DISTRICT Meeting of this Association took place, as arranged, at Mortlake on Saturday, November 21st. The meeting was well attended; but the sad news of the death of Mr. Snowdon, which only became generally known that day, shed a gloom over the gathering. Every one present seemed to feel as if he had lost a friend, as one might tell by the frequent mention of the name. The ringing began soon after five o'clock with some GRANDSIRE TRIPLES; four of the Wimbledon band, with Mr. Strutt of Kingston, and Mr. E. F. Strange, rang some CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR with 7th and 8th covering; afterwards GRANDSIRE MINOR by the ringers of Christ Church, Mitcham, with Mr. Frost of Wimbledon, a well-struck touch of STEDMAN'S TRIPLES by a mixed band, some BOB and TREBLE BOB MAJOR, were successively performed. The peal-book of the Association was on view, having just been returned from Messrs. Butler of Cursitor Street, and the well-entered record of its thirty-three peals gave general satisfaction. The meeting terminated about nine o'clock.

A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

The Bells at Blyth Church, Notts.

THE ring of six bells has been rehung with new frames and all new fittings by Thomas Mallaby and Sons of Masham, Yorkshire. The bells themselves were recast in 1843 by Taylor & Co., but from want of funds the old stocks, beams, &c., of the fifteenth century were retained. The restoration of the church appeared to call for restoration in the belfry, and the work has been done to the satisfaction of all concerned. The bells were rung for the first time on Sunday, November 15th, by the ringers of the parish, who are to be congratulated upon having such smooth and easy action responsive to their touch. Our readers may have noted the death of Mr. Thomas Mallaby in August last; his sons have ably designed and carried out the work since his death.

The Bells at St. Ann's, Binfield, Berks.

THE original five bells of this church have recently been rehung by Mr. Rogers of Maidenhead, and the ring of six was reopened on Saturday, the 21st inst., by a band from Maidenhead. A peal of 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung in 26 mins. T. Woolford, 1; J. Bissley, 2; H. Rogers, 3; R. Smith, 4; W. A. Garraway, 5; J. W. Wilkins, 6. Also another 720, with clappers half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon, in 27 mins. H. Rogers, 1; J. Bissley, 2; W. A. Garraway, 3; J. W. Wilkins, 4; R. Smith, 5; E. Rogers, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt. Both peals were conducted by Mr. Garraway. DOUBLES were also rung, in which Messrs. Horn and Bolton, local ringers, took a bell each; and by the kind invitation of the Rev. Canon Savory the ringers, in company with the Rev. A. H. Drummond, vicar of Boyne Hill, took tea at the Rectory. Having rung a few touches of TRIPLES, &c., on hand-bells, the company returned homeward, well pleased with their afternoon's outing.

Dedication Service at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

ON Monday evening, the 23rd inst., before the Dedication Service at 8 p.m., the parochial ringers rang 1025 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 43 mins. E. Albone, 1; J. R. Haworth (conductor), 2; W. Chew, 3; F. Margetson, 4; F. French, 5; J. W. Rowbotham, 6; F. Hopkins, 7; G. Banks, 8; C. F. Winny, 9; D. Newton, 10. Tenor, 24 cwt.

The Canon Lyttelton Memorial.

THE dedication of the ring of eight bells will take place on Saturday, the 28th inst., at three o'clock. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. E. D. Tinling, canon of Gloucester. The offertory will be for defraying the repairs of the tower. After service and during the evening the bells will be rung by an experienced band of ringers.

Hagley, Worcestershire, November 1885.

A False Peal.

SIR,—The peal of TREBLE BOB MAJOR, consisting of 5056 changes, published in your last issue, and composed by Mr. William Sottanastall of Sowerby, Yorkshire, is false. Repetition changes occur in the second, third, sixth, seventh, tenth, and eleventh courses.

N. J. PRISTOW.

Saffron Walden, November 23rd, 1885.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Somerleyton, Suffolk.

ON Tuesday, the 17th inst., six members of the Somerleyton Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers rang a peal of 5040 changes in 2 hrs. 58 mins. in seven different methods, namely, 720 in each of the following:—GRANDSIRE MINOR, DUKE OF YORK, NEW LONDON PLEASURE, WOODBINE, VIOLET, KENT, and OXFORD. R. J. Kittle (conductor), 1; G. Rudd, 2; John Oxford, 3; James Oxford, 4; Henry Oxford, 5; R. Wilson, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt., in G.

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

ON Wednesday, the 18th inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang a Two-part peal of 5408 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 42 mins. S. Grettton, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; J. Jagger (composer), 5; H. Wakley, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. The above peal, which has never been previously performed, contains the 4th twenty-two

times and the 6th twenty-four times in 6th's place. The bells were half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, a member of this Society, and President of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers, who was buried at Ilkley, near Leeds, on this day. All the above are also members of the Midland Counties Association of Change-ringers.

At St. Peter's, Benington, Herts.

ON Wednesday, the 18th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 1; H. Baker, 2; H. J. Tucker, 3; L. Chapman, 4; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 5; S. Page, 6; C. Sharnbrook, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 8. Composed by Mr. H. Hubbard. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At St. Ann's, Rotherham, Yorkshire.

ON Monday, the 16th inst., the annexed peal of 5069 STEDMAN'S CATERS was rung in 3 hrs. 30 mins. G. Brigg, 1; C. H. Hattersley, 2; F. Coates (composer and conductor), 3; J. Athey, 4; T. Whitworth,† 5; C. Bower, 6; J. Hale,† 7; W. Coates, 8; A. Rogers, 9; W. Hurst,* 10.

C. H. Hattersley and C. Bower came from Sheffield.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

2	3	1	4	5	6	
1	3	6	5	2	4	1 4 16
3	1	6	4	2	5	5 6 16
2	1	6	5	3	4	4 5 16
2	1	4	6	3	5	16
2	1	5	4	3	6	16
5	1	2	6	3	4	5 16
5	1	4	2	3	6	16
5	1	6	4	3	2	16
6	1	5	2	3	4	5 16
6	1	4	5	3	2	16
4	1	6	2	3	5	5 16
4	1	5	6	3	2	16
4	1	2	5	3	6	16

The eleven last courses three times repeated produce 215364, round with balls at 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14.

At Wymeswold, Leicestershire.

ON Monday, the 16th inst., six members of the Loughborough Company of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR in 27 mins. C. Smith, 1; A. Cresser, 2; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 3; J. W. Taylor, Esq., sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun. (conductor), 6. Also a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR, Mr. Marshall Brown, of Wymeswold, ringing the 5th in the place of S. Smith. Afterwards a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, the performers being stationed as in the Oxford.

At the Parish Church, Bingley, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 21st inst., a peal of 720 BOB MINOR was rung at this church in 28½ mins. T. W. Green (conductor), 1; T. Leach, 2; J. Green, 3; W. Slicer, 4; J. Mountain, 5; T. Green, 6. The occasion was the eightieth anniversary of the birthday of Thomas Green, who rang the tenor, and who became a member of the Bingley Society in 1838. It may be said that there has not been a regular company at this place for several years, and that it was the first 720 rung by the second and fourth men. Tenor, 17 cwt.

At St. Margaret's, Barking, Essex.

2	3	4	5	6	M.	P.	W.	H.
3	2	6	5	4	2			2
2	4	6	5	3	1			2
5	3	4	6	2	1		2	2
3	5	2	6	4	2			2
5	4	2	6	3	1			2
3	2	4	6	5	2		1	1
6	4	2	3	5	1			2
3	6	4	5	2	2			2
5	2	6	4	3	2			2
2	5	3	4	6	2			2
4	3	5	2	6	1			2
4	5	2	3	6			1	2
5	6	2	3	4	1			2
6	3	5	4	2				2
2	3	4	5	6	1		2	1

ON Saturday evening, the 21st inst., eight members of the Essex Association rang the annexed peal of 5056 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 22 mins. A. J. Perkins (conductor), 1; A. Porter, 2; G. F. Pearl (his first peal in this method), 3; R. Sewell, 4; A. Pye, 5; Y. Green, 6; H. Randall, 7; W. Doran, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt. This peal has the 6th eleven times right and wrong in 5-6, is in one-part, composed by York Green, of West Ham, and has now been rung for the first time. Mr. Snowdon's death was not known at Barking, or else the bells would have been muffled on this occasion. It is intended to erect two peal-boards for the two last peals rung here.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 21st inst., 720 BOB MINOR, with 6-8 behind. J. Royston, 1; B. Spinner, 2; W. Baker (Rochester), 3; H. D. Davis, 4; E. Andrew (Royal Engineers Band), 5; G. Martin (Swanscombe), 6; J. W. Aitkin (conductor), 7; W. Louth, 8. Also 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Royston, 1; W. Harper (conductor), 2; B. Spinner, 3; W. Baker, 4; H. D. Davis, 5; E. Andrews, 6; J. W. Aitkin, 7; G. Martin, 8.

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

ON Sunday, the 22nd inst., previous to Evening Service, the last 700 of Holt's Original peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, with the clappers half muffled, was rung in 25 mins., to the memory of the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon. O. Fasey, 1; H. Rogers, 2; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 3; J. Bissley, 4; R. Smith, 5; J. W. Wilkins, 6; E. Rogers, 7; T. Woolford, 8. Tenor, 17½ cwt.

At St. John's, Peterborough.—A Muffled Peal.

ON Sunday, the 22nd inst., a muffled peal of 720 BOB MINOR, with 7th and 8th covering, was rung as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, by the following: C. W. Holdiehl, 1; Rev. W. H. Deane, 2; H. Plowman, 3; J. Hancock, 4; G. Baker, 5; E. F. Read (conductor), 6; J. Rinks, 7; T. Ellington, 8.

The ringers of St. John's wish to express their deep sense of the loss change-ringing has sustained by his death, in the prime of life. It is in a great measure due to the plain instructions contained in his book (*Rope-Sight*) that they have attained to any proficiency in the art. It must be a source of comfort to his bereaved relatives and friends to know that he has not lived in vain, but that he has done much to earn the gratitude and esteem of those who were not fortunate enough to know him personally.

H. FLOWMAN, Sec.

At St. Peter's, Harborne, Staffordshire.

On Monday, the 23rd inst., a peal of 5280 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 15 mins., by the following members of the St. Martin's Company, Birmingham, with the bells muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowden, who was a member of this company. J. Toynes, 1; C. H. Hattersley (composer and conductor), 2; W. R. Small, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; S. Reeves, 5; J. Sanders, 6; F. James, 7; A. Thomas, 8.

At Sittingbourne, Kent.

On Monday, the 23rd inst., eight members of the Kent County Association rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (taken from Holt's Original) in 50 mins. E. Gower, 1; J. G. Elliott, 2; E. White, 3; Jno. M. Cooper, 4; E. J. Bottie, 5; S. Snelling, 6; Wm. H. Judd (conductor), 7; H. Sutton, 8. The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowden.

The Bells at All Saints', Derby.

On Monday, the 23rd inst., ten members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, by the kind permission of the Rev. Canon Knight and J. B. Storer and Mr. B. Brindley, rang on the bells of the above church a Two-part peal of 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 40 mins. J. Jagger, 1; A. B. Ward, 2; A. Wakley, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; H. Wakley, 5; J. W. Taylor, jun., 6; A. P. Heywood, 7; J. Howe, 8; T. Holmes, 9; W. Wakley (conductor), 10. Tenor, 28 cwt. This peal, which has never been previously performed, contains the 6th six course-ends home, and was composed by Henry Johnson, sen., Birmingham. It was rung with half-muffled bells in memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowden, President of the Yorkshire Association, and a member of the St. Paul's Society, Burton-on-Trent, who, on October 21st, 1882, conducted the last peal of Treble Bob rung in this tower. All the above are members of the Midland Counties Association of Change-ringers.

A Peal of Bob Major.

5040						W. M. H.		
2	3	4	5	6	W.	M.	H.	
5	2	4	3	6	-	-	-	4 6 5 3 2
3	5	4	2	6	-	-	-	5 6 2 3 4
4	3	6	5	2	-	-	-	2 3 5 6 4
6	3	2	5	4	-	-	-	5 2 3 6 4
2	6	4	3	5	-	-	-	3 5 2 6 4
3	2	4	6	5	-	-	-	4 2 3 5 6
4	3	5	2	6	-	-	-	
5	5	6	2	4	-	-	-	
6	3	4	2	5	-	-	-	

Twice repeated.

6th twelve times each way in 5-6.

BENJAMIN FRANCIS, Diss.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Disestablishment, or Church Reform?

SIR,—In the opening paragraph of Mr. Escreet's letter on the above subject, published in your number for Nov. 6th, he laments the ignorance of an educated man who would hardly believe him when he told him the simple truth that no bishops or clergy are paid by the State, except the chaplains of our army, navy, prisons, and workhouses. In paragraph 4 he says, 'Let the Church lead the way to the last extension of the franchise . . . and give it to every christened man and woman of full age who enrol their names annually on the Church roll open at every church throughout the Easter octave. Let these electors, through diocesan councils directly elected, control all (Church) property, and all patronage, with parish executive councils for parochial details.'

Now, reading the opening paragraph and paragraph 4 together, reveals, I think, the weak part of the scheme. I suppose we may take it for granted that 'the educated man who would hardly believe,' &c. was 'a christened man of full age,' and if so, would have a voice in controlling all Church property and patronage; yet, some might ask, should this 'last extension of the franchise' be extended to this educated ignoramus? And if this may be said of the educated baptized, what about the uneducated 'christened men and women?' Nay more, what shall be said about giving the Church vote to the man who can produce his baptismal certificate perhaps, but who is the bitter foe of the Church? Is he to have the vote? He would demand it, of course, and would exercise it to the injury of the Church. I suppose that most even of the Bradlaughites of this generation are 'christened men and women,' and would therefore be entitled to vote under this scheme. Mr. Escreet does not tell us what safeguards he would provide against this 'abuse of patronage' until we know more, better, perhaps, bear those ills we have under the present system than fly to those others of the parochial council. I imagine that the tyranny of King Mob under such a system would be worse than even the rule of the Plutocrats. Yet I quite agree as to the necessity for Church Reform, though I do not think the patronage question is the most 'burning' one at the present time. No, there are two abuses above all others which wound the public conscience:—

(1.) That an incumbent is practically an autocrat as to the ritual of his

Church. It is quite possible for a stranger to walk into a church and find a service going on which cannot be distinguished, either in ritual or doctrine, from a service of the Roman Church.

Conversing lately on the great question of the day, a Churchman remarked, 'I am now quite in favour of Disestablishment and Disendowment, for the Church of England, consciously or unconsciously, is playing into the hands of the Church of Rome, which is sure, sooner or later, as Roman Catholics boast, to have the reversion of our Church funds; better, then, apply them now to a secular purpose than let them fall into the hands of an idolatrous Church.'

(2.) The second great abuse that touches the public conscience is the inequality of clerical incomes. No Church Reform will be worthy of the name which does not deal with this matter. The position, e.g. of the unbeneficed clergy is a standing reproach to the Church. Length of service and experience go simply for nothing, the curate ten years in Holy Orders receiving no more income than the man of but one year's experience.

A writer in one of the papers lately proposed as a remedy for this injustice that all clerical revenues should be thrown into one common fund; that the working clergy should be paid out of this fund, according to a graduated scale, on a similar plan to that under which officers in the army are paid; the newly ordained receiving a lieutenant's pay; the curate, five or six years in Holy Orders, the pay of a captain; the incumbent of a small parish, a major's pay; and so on; while all should be entitled to a retiring pension after so many years' service. I am not advocating the adoption of this scheme, by which all Church revenues should be thus thrown into 'hotspot' and distributed *pro rata*. I do not believe it would attain the desired end, even if it were equitable. I mention it only because it seems to give the right idea, not as to the means by which clerical incomes should be levelled up, but as to the scale on which this should be done. Diocesan Endowment Funds would have to be raised in order to carry out this reform. The Bishop of London's Fund and the Bishop of Rochester's Ten Churches Fund show us what can be done when the diocesan machinery is set in motion. Why should it not be set going to remove this crying wrong? The laity would doubtless liberally respond were the matter put before them 'with authority.' How is it that Church Congresses and Diocesan Councils seeing, for all these years, earnest and faithful men groaning under the heavy burden of poverty, do not so much as touch it with the little finger? Yet surely it should be as interesting a subject as, for instance, 'The relation of Art to Religion,' and other fancy topics of Congress and Council! It is to be deplored that the Church has required the 'scare' of Disestablishment and Disendowment to make her think of practical reforms. If she really is now going to set her house in order I trust she will at least remove the two great scandals I have dwelt upon (I fear at too great length)—securing for the laity a more settled and uniform ritual, and for the working clergy a more equitable income.

Battersea.

E. A. B. BOCKETT.

What are They?

SIR,—After reading a good deal of the intended action of Dissenters against the Church of Christ in England—how they would 'down with her,' how they would overthrow the Apostolate; how they would make every parish in England a battle-ground; how, dissolving the Church and the State, they would make the latter heathen and the former a series of secular societies; how they would scramble for Church plate and would confiscate endowments given to Christ, and perhaps build tramways with the spoil, as is being done in Ireland with the plunder of the ancient Irish Church—after reading these things and comparing them with the Gospel, I am forced to ask whether the perpetrators of such deeds be Christians, or whether they belong to the class whom St. John calls the 'many antichrists,' who went out from the Apostles? For neither Christ nor King could have any place in the society which we should have left. 'Lo! here is Christ, and lo! there is Christ.' But when we reach the cry, it is but the voice of self-interest that has dubbed itself as being of 'the kingdom of heaven,' for the purpose of plundering the kingdoms of the world.

CAPTAIN R.N.

Magic Lanterns for Church Defence.

SIR,—A valuable means of teaching our people the history of the Church of England is by the slides of a magic lantern. What we see often conveys more teaching than what we hear, and if the two be combined there is at once a powerful way of interesting the most ignorant. I have for some years used the magic lantern for this purpose, and lately determined to try the same means on behalf of Church Defence. Having failed to get a set of slides painted especially for this purpose, partly owing to want of funds and partly through the illness of one of the staff of the Church Defence Society, I took the excellent catalogue issued by Mr. E. G. Wood, of 74 Cheapside, and selected from various lists of subjects about fifty slides capable of being used as 'pegs' on which to hang useful information concerning Church History. Last week our lecture came off; the rain poured heavily, but we had a full schoolroom, and for an hour and a half the audience, chiefly consisting of working men (the lecture was given to the local Working-Men's Institute) listened with the deepest attention to the story of their ancient Church, traced down from early days to present times, through its vicissitudes, and darkness, and dangers. To many it was simply a revelation! I would recommend this method as an easy, cheap, and valuable way of imparting information much needed at the present time.

Church Defence.

J. H. T.

SIR,—Much still remains to be done. May I mention what is being done with a large measure of success in some churches?

1. An 'instruction' is given after evening service from the lectern upon some 'mis-statement' made by the Liberation Society. The truth is clearly brought out by reference to history, and calmly stated. It is supported and driven home by leaflets given to the congregation on leaving church.