

NETHERLANDS.

THE Dutch Old Catholic Seminary at Amersfoort having lost by death its President, Dr. Karsten, the Rev. J. J. Van Thiel has been installed as his successor by the Archbishop of Utrecht and Bishops of Haarlem and Deventer.

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE elections are engrossing all attention and driving away almost every other consideration. Up to this date twelve Conservatives or Loyalists have been returned and thirty-four Nationalists or Separatists. Two Protestant clergymen have taken a prominent step; the Rev. R. Anderson, rector of Drinagh, co. of Cork, has joined the National League in his neighbourhood, and the Rev. Joseph Galbraith, a Fellow of Trinity College, proposed one of the National candidates for the city of Dublin. With these exceptions, and of course Mr. Parnell, it may be broadly stated that the National party are members of the Roman Catholic Church, whilst the Loyalists are Protestants. In the north of Ireland, however, not a few Presbyterians belong to the National League. In the city and county of Dublin the Roman Catholic priesthood have been very active with their Archbishop at their head. They frequented the polling-booths day after day. In some of our own churches there were references made to the elections, and in a few the National Anthem was played.

A prominent Roman ecclesiastic, Dr. Dorrian, Bishop of Down, has just died. He was known as the 'Restitution Bishop.' The sums of money which he received from time to time from defaulters all over the world was almost incredible. To one firm in Belfast for a long period his lordship paid a monthly visit, giving instructions to place five pounds, ten, and sometimes twenty pounds to the credit of the 'penitent thief,' and when asked from whom this was, with a smile the only disclosure he would make would be, 'Be grateful, and let me have a receipt.' He died possessed of property value over a quarter of a million.

A writer in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:

'A movement is on foot in the Roman Catholic Church in Dublin to abolish the "high falutin" style of Church music that has prevailed so long in favour of more sober and devotional services. Archbishop Walsh, who is at the head of this effort, while President of Maynooth (his Grace is a skilled musician), brought Gregorian music to a very high pitch of perfection, the chapel services there being in all respects unique, and noted for their solemnity and impressiveness. The Archbishop desires to introduce a similar improvement into the worship of the Roman Catholic churches of his diocese, and possibly we shall hear no more of the wonderful things done by public and paid singers.'

The Cork correspondent of the same journal, noting church work in that southern diocese, says:

'The last week in October was a busy week for Cork Churchmen. In addition to the Bishop's visitation of his clergy on Tuesday, and to the meeting of the Diocesan Synod on Wednesday and Thursday, and to the many concerts, services, and social gatherings, a choir festival was held in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Friday afternoon, at which about 400 singers were present, representing thirty-seven choirs. The Lord Bishop took part in the service, and the cathedral was well filled by a congregation including many clergy, synodsmen, and country visitors. In addition to members of the Cork Chapter, the Dean of Cloyne, the Archdeacon of Cloyne, and several Canons of Cloyne, as well as the Dean of Ross and several Canons of Ross, joined in the procession and were accommodated with stalls in the chancel. The service was intoned by the Dean of Cork, Rev. Canon Emerson, D.D., and Rev. Minor Canon Conolly; and the special Lessons were read by the Dean of Cloyne and the Dean of Ross. Canon Warren, incumbent of Fermoy, for many years the accomplished and popular precentor of Cork, preached the sermon, his general subject being the duty and the joy of offering thanksgiving to God in His sanctuary. The singing of the 100th Psalm at the close of the service, alternate verses in unison, had a very grand effect, the organ, although played at full power, being inaudible in the organ gallery, owing to the volume of sound rolling up from 1000 voices. Previous to the service the clergy and choirs were entertained at luncheon by a committee of ladies, who, aided by many generous friends, had prepared in Christ Church Schoolroom a very tasteful and plentiful repast, the tables being ornamented with flowers and rare plants. At the conclusion of the luncheon the Bishop, who presided, thanked the ladies very heartily for their kindness, and spoke some words of welcome to the choirs, many of whom had travelled very long distances in order to be present at the service on that day. The rehearsals were conducted by Dr. Marks, who presided at the great organ, and a tune to Hymn 295, "The King of Love," by Mr. J. C. Marks, Jun., was sung, and proved one of the chief features of the service. The anthem was Gounod's "Send out Thy Light," and the Canticles, *Cantate Domino*, and *Deus Misereatur*, were sung to Dr. Bunnett's setting in F.'

The Rev. Dr. Seddall, Rector of Vastina, Diocese of Meath, has just published *A Historical Sketch of the Church of Ireland*, very useful as a book of reference on the subject, and bringing up our history to the present moment; and Dr. Maguire, Professor of Moral Philosophy in Trinity College, has published a volume of *Prælections* which must be prized by all students.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

EDITORIAL.

WITH the opening of a new volume of *Church Bells* an opportunity seems to present itself of saying something as to the lines which we propose taking for our guidance in the conduct of the ringing column. We hope to be enabled to enlarge our sphere of action. Hitherto, under the heading of 'Bells and Bell-ringing,' the bell-ringing has had the chief say, and the *Bells* have been left out in the cold—or, perhaps, they have left themselves there. Cannot they be brought in and induced to speak? Surely they have much to say in many ways. To come to matter-of-fact language, the whole subject of bells and ringing has received so much attention of late years, both from a literary and from a practical point of view, the ramifications of everything connected with bells have spread so widely into all Church machinery, that there must be much to be said on many points as yet very casually touched upon. Such are archaeological points, and points historical; matters relating to the condition of towers, their fitness for rings of bells or otherwise; to bell-hanging, belfry rules, the dedication of new bells, the operation of the law as regards bells, and the many other circumstances governing the mutual action of the clergy and their ringers, or of either separately. On all these branches of the subject discussion is invited. In the meanwhile let the ringing world bear in mind the premiss from which we started. Our object is to enlarge our sphere, not to exchange one sphere for another. The bell column will still be just as open as ever for bell-ringing, records of peals, doings of societies, and for correspondence as to bell-hanging, bell-frames, bell-casting; in short, for everything which it has contained till now. In one particular only shall we draw in our horns, and that in a very decided manner. While welcoming all contributions as to the capabilities of the various methods, proof of peals, &c., we must refuse admission to the ordinary class of 'compositions.' Endless peals of Treble and Plain Bob Major with 5 and 6 so many times 'wrong' and 'right,' have really no interest whatever, and, as has happened very lately, are often false. Accordingly, unless a composition has some strongly marked traits of excellence we shall be constrained to pass it over.

In conclusion, notice is given that, excepting only reports of peals and official notices of forthcoming business from the officers of Societies and Associations, all matter for insertion must reach our office on Tuesday. Space admitting, peals and notices will be inserted up to time of going to press.

Beddington Bells, Surrey.—A Question.

SIR,—In the *Church Bells of Surrey* by Mr. J. C. L. Stahlschmidt, published last year, under the heading 'Beddington' I find this note: 'A peal of ten bells by Mears, stated to be dated 1868. Access to belfry refused.' Why was this? Who refused admission? Was it the vicar, the churchwardens, the steeplekeeper, or who? Why should admission have been refused here and nowhere else? I have by me nearly all the county bell histories that have ever been published, but have never seen such a note before.

Salisbury.

J. R. JERRAN.

Dedication of a new Ring of Eight Bells at Hagley, Worcestershire.

ON Saturday, the 28th ult., a new ring of eight bells, which has been hung in the tower of the above church as a memorial to the late Rector, the Rev. Canon Lyttelton, was dedicated to the service of God. Evensong was sung at 3 p.m., by the present Rector, the Rev. W. C. Gibbs. After the anthem, the clergy and choir proceeded to the tower, where an office of dedication was sung. While the procession was returning to the chancel a course of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* was rung by the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, who, in the evening, rang Thurstan's Five-part peal of *STEDMAN'S TRIPLES*, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. J. Buffery, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; H. Bastable, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; W. R. Small, 5; A. Thomas, 6; H. Johnson, junr., 7; F. H. James, 8. Tenor, 9 cwt. The bells, which are very sweetly toned, were cast and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. The ringers were kindly entertained by the Rector, for which they desire to tender their best thanks.

The Royal Cumberland Society.

TO-DAY (Friday, the 4th) at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, London, the bells will be half muffled for ringing practice, as a mark of respect for the memory of the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Diss, Norfolk.

ON Monday, the 23rd ult., eight members of the Diss Company started for a 5040 of Bob Major, with the bells muffled at handstroke, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon. After ringing 3500 changes in 2 hrs. 23 mins., 'Stand!' was called as two bells changed places. E. Francis (composer and conductor), 1; J. Rudd, 2; W. Matthews, 3; E. Hayward, 4; C. Webster, 5; W. Ireland, 6; A. Hart, 7; J. Souter, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

Muffled Peal at St. Martin's, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A MUFFLED PEAL was rung on Saturday, the 21st ult., at St. Martin's, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. After ringing the age of the deceased in whole-pulls round, the age was again repeated on the tenor bell alone, after which five six-scores of DOUBLES were rung J. Short, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; R. T. Taylor, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; W. E. Ramshaw, 6. Messrs. Jerram and Clements are members of the Yorkshire Association.

At the Parish Church, Nutfield, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 23rd ult., was rung, with the bells deeply muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR. C. Sendall, 1; J. Basford, 2; E. Fuller, 3; T. Boniface, 4; J. Burkin, 5; W. Hawkins (conductor), 6. Also a peal of GRANDSIRE MINOR. C. Sendall, 1; J. Skinner, 2; E. Fuller, 3; T. Boniface, 4; J. Burkin, 5; W. Hawkins (conductor), 6.

At All Saints', Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Tuesday evening, the 24th ult., the following members of the Sudbury Company of Change-ringers rang a touch of BOB MAJOR. B. Ransom, Esq., 1; J. Campin, 2; G. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe, 4; H. Brackett, 5; W. Howell, 6; W. Bacon, 7; H. Harper, 8. A touch of 672 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was also rung. F. Tolliday, 1; J. Campin, 2; G. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe, 4; W. Bacon, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; H. Brackett, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D. Both touches were conducted by Mr. Sillitoe. The above were rung with the bells half muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon of Leeds.

At St. Dunstan's, Stepney, London.

ON Wednesday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5002 STEDMAN'S CATERS, with the bells deeply muffled, in memory of Mr. J. W. Snowdon, in 3 hrs. 32 mins. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; E. E. Clarke, 2; W. D. Smith, 3; E. Horrex, 4; J. W. Rowbotham, 5; J. Martin-Routh, 6; F. E. Dawe, 7; A. P. Heywood (Duffield Bank, Derby), 8; J. M. Hayes, 9; W. H. George, 10. Composed by Mr. H. W. Haley. Tenor, 32 cwt., in D.

At St. John's, Waterloo Road, London.

ON Wednesday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Waterloo Society rang a muffled peal (the usual whole-pull and stand) as a last token of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon, who was for many years a member of this Society. W. Baron (conductor), 1; C. E. Malim, 2; H. J. Davies, 3; E. F. Strange, 4; W. H. L. Buckingham, 5; E. E. Vinen, 6; R. T. Woodley, 7; W. Coppage, 8. Afterwards some STEDMAN and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung.

At St. Nicholas', Witham, Essex.

ON Thursday, the 26th ult., was rung a half-muffled peal of 720 BOB MINOR, as a mark of respect to Mr. J. W. Snowdon. J. Butler, 1; A. Chalk, 2; A. Fryatt, 3; W. G. Richards, 4; E. Garnett, 5; H. Sayer (conductor), 6.

At St. Mary's, Sheffield, Yorkshire.

ON Friday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Yorkshire Association and the St. Peter's Amalgamated Society rang in 3 hrs. and 8 mins. a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original). The bells were muffled in memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, the late President of the Association. J. Mulligan, 1; E. Woodward, 2; J. Taylor, 3; J. Goucher, 4; T. Hattersley (conductor), 5; J. A. Dixon, 6; A. Brearley, 7; W. Midgley, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, London.

ON Sunday, the 27th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. B. E. Battrum, 1; R. French (conductor), 2; W. Jones, 3; H. Langdon, 4; E. F. Strange, 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; G. Woodage (first peal), 8. This was rung on the occasion of the 167th anniversary of the bells. Tenor, 18 cwt., in E.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

ON Saturday, the 28th ult., eight members of the St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 54 mins., with the bells half muffled, as a token of respect to Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. W. Shardlow, 1; T. Alton, 2; C. Hart, 3; W. Midgley, 4; W. H. Found, 5; G. Mottashaw, 6; A. E. Thompson (conductor), 7; J. W. Thompson, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At Southover, Lewes, Sussex.

ON Saturday evening, the 28th ult., four members of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex Association of Change-ringers, assisted by four members of the Eastbourne Branch, attempted Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, but failed after ringing 2520 changes in 1 hr. 28 mins. C. E. Golds, 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; H. P. Bennett, 3; C. Tyler, 4; N. Harding, 5; J. Searle, 6; S. Hart, 7; T. Lewis, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Islington, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Islington Society of Ringers rang a muffled peal in memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. W. Spicer, sen. (conductor), 1; C. Spicer, jun., 2; C. Spicer, 3; F. Bennett, 4; F. Thomas, 5; W. Williams, 6; D. Liven, 7; F. Tingey, 8.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Election Statistics.

SIR,—Probably my suggestion has already been anticipated by many, but I venture, nevertheless, to remark that statistics of the following kind would be extremely valuable after the elections are over. Thus: (1.) A column of the number of voters throughout England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. This probably must be somewhat exaggerated, owing to the same person being registered frequently in two places where, however, he could vote only once. (2.) A column of the aggregate number voting for the Conservatives. (3.) A column of the aggregate number voting for the Liberals. (4.) The same for Radicals. (5.) The number of spoiled votes. It is probable that these will be not a few. Pressure is brought on voters to vote contrary to their own wishes, and I suspect that they sometimes purposely render their vote void. I do not suppose either side to be immaculate, but I know of some shameful cases of pressure by the Liberals, forcing men to vote contrary to their wishes. H. G. O.

The National Church.

SIR,—As many persons are inquiring for information respecting the Church and her claim to be called 'National,' &c., I think it only right to mention a work which you are perhaps already acquainted with, and which certainly fills a place that no other book does. I refer to *Lectures on the Church of England and other Communion*, by Rev. R. Howard. We were privileged to hear the lectures at first hand, as they were delivered in our parish church last autumn and spring, and were published at the request of the parishioners. No one will fail to learn much from them. They are published by Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co.

A PARISHIONER OF HOLY TRINITY, CLAPHAM.

Church Reform.

SIR,—I do trust that Churchmen will not persuade themselves that the present reaction will last for ever. We must stoutly press the question of Church Reform. I am prepared to maintain in the presence of my good friends, the religious Nonconformists, that an Established Church, which retains the sympathies of a large majority of the nation, and is administered with a wise, conscience-clause spirit, is the best security for (1) Religious equality, (2) National morality, (3) Intellectual freedom, (4) Spiritual life.

But if we are to retain the sympathies of a large majority, we need a reform which shall give to the whole Church (1), Control and equitable adjustment of all endowments and property; e.g. power to sell large vicarages. (2), A decisive will in the appointment of the clergy. Give these powers to a diocesan council. (3), Parochial councils with well-defined statutory powers as to ritual, &c., acting as a check on the present autocracy of the vicar; also (with protection against its arbitrary use) to displace him if inefficient. These are privileges which Voluntaryism would never give 'the people.' The real difficulty is, What is the whole Church? This Mr. Burkitt, whose letter I rejoice to see, ignores. It is not the nation, for some, e.g., are Secularists, but it must be such an order as is consistent with loyalty to Christ. It is not the converted, for the Lord alone knows the heart. It cannot be communicants. The Test Acts settle this. For the same reason, though it does not apply so strongly, I would not have the confirmed. Nor can it be a money qualification. I have suggested baptized men and women of full age (opinion would, I think, protect this franchise from misuse). Yet though I have a reluctance to suggest subscription, if there must be one, let us have the Apostles' Creed. I may add that our Colonies employ a declaration of *bonâ fide* membership, and some advocate a declaration of assent to the Book of Common Prayer, but these are all fancy franchises compared with baptism. C. E. ESCRETT.

St. Andrew's Vicarage, Stockwell.

Disestablishment distinct from Disendowment.

SIR,—As so much is being written now about Disestablishment (of which I enclose a specimen) it will be as well if the Church papers occasionally publish information on the subject that Church people may know how to refute the statements which are often cast at them. It may soon be a question for the Church to consider whether she would not be stronger by having the sole management of her own affairs instead of being under political control and a Parliament which includes so many non-Churchmen. As Disestablishment seems to be quite distinct from Disendowment it would be better to have it so, and, by giving up the former, the endowments may be saved from spoliation. The Church of England appears to have been established as the sole and exclusive form of religion by Elizabeth; but of course the endowments existed long before. The Church seems to have been a national body till 1828, when the Constitution was not any longer exclusively a Church of England one, but only a Protestant one. Formerly, I find the bishops were elected by the clergy and the people. Another good thing of the past which has been abandoned was that the Dean and Chapter used to work for the Church by educating candidates for Holy Orders. Now many of them seem to have been ill prepared. AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

A Philosophic Statesman on Church Establishment.

SIR,—Pray grant me space to strongly advise your readers, and especially my lay brethren, at a time when so many discordant sounds are in the air, to read, or re-read, Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. This English Classic was written in 1790, but it is pregnant with suggestive thoughts under present difficulties. It may be recommended alike to our Dissenting friends and to those Churchmen who may, as some say they do, and as a certain noble Lord does, despair of 'adequate' internal reform without Disestablishment. Although a motley array is gathered against