

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

IN MEMORIAM.

LET comrades muster round the old church tower,
To tell the tidings sad with bated breath;
Then let the bells ring out in muffled power
Their solemn requiem for untimely death.

List to the mighty steeples of the North
Re-echoing their distress from shore to shore;
Mark how each tenor chants her sorrow forth,
The master-hand that changed her is no more.

And we shall miss him sadly, one and all;
E'en those who ne'er in friendship grasped his hand,
Have each some kindly action to recall,
Some point obscure he bade them understand.

In search of truth, through unconnected lore
He traced arrangement with a ready pen;
The veil from seeming mystery he tore,
Bequeathing knowledge to his fellow-men.

Chosen as ringers' leader through the land,
Acknowledged arbiter for common weal,
While crowning merit with unsparing hand,
He crushed imposture with an iron heel.

What though the deeds in which he played his part
Are not inscribed on England's roll of fame?
As long as future ages prize our art,
So long shall reverence be for SNOWDON'S name.

J. M. R.

A New Peal-book for the Ancient Society of College Youths.

ON Tuesday, November the 24th, A. Percival Heywood, Esq., of Duffield Bank, near Derby, presented the Society with a new peal-book. The volume, which is similar in appearance to its predecessor, is handsomely bound in red morocco leather, with brass edges and clasps, and carries the names of the donor, and those of the officers of the Society both for the present and last years, in gilt lettering on its covers, which enclose 450 leaves of the finest hand-made paper, suitable for ornamental writing and illumination. The new book is the fourth volume; the third was presented by C. A. W. Troyte, Esq., of Huntsham Court, Devonshire, and the first peal in vol. i. is 5060 GRANDSIRE CINQUES, which was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, City of London, in 1724.

In presenting it to the Master (J. M. Routh, Esq.), on behalf of the Society, Mr. Heywood said, that having observed in a printed report that the pages of the existing peal-book were nearly exhausted, and that a new one would shortly be required, he had made an offer to defray the cost of the latter, which he was glad to say had been accepted, for it afforded him the opportunity of showing his appreciation, not only of the work the Society of College Youths was doing in the ringing science, but also of the manner in which the members had treated him during a former visit. It was an honour which he felt strongly to be allowed to add another volume to the long roll of existing records of the Society, which embraced a period of 250 years; a roll such as few, if any, corporate bodies in London, with the exception perhaps of some of the City companies, could boast. He hoped that the records would always be kept up in a manner suitable to the position of the Company as the head ringing society in England—a position which it was likely to hold as long as the Church existed, whether Established or otherwise.

In receiving the book on behalf of the Society, the Master thanked Mr. Heywood for the grand gift which he had just bestowed upon them; and observed that the fact that it had come unsolicited from a country member was doubly gratifying to them, as it evidenced the interest taken by the provinces in the Society's well-being at head-quarters and in its records. With regard to the latter, they were, as Mr. Heywood had said, unique in the history of bell-ringing; a result due to the zeal and pertinacity with which former officers and members clung to their duty, often, no doubt, in times of great difficulty and danger. Those men had handed to the present age those records as a precious legacy, coupled with a sacred trust; viz., to pass them on to future generations of ringers in as bright, untarnished, and worthy a condition as they were in when they received them. Mr. Heywood's generosity in this instance allowed them to do this without dipping into their funds, and the book would take its place as another stone in that monument built up to the honour of those who had deserved so well of the Society in times gone by, and which served as an incentive to themselves and future generations to emulate their zeal. He congratulated Mr. Heywood on his rapid success in the art of change-ringing, and hoped he would ere long make some valuable additions to its science; and concluded by re-echoing the wish of every member present, that the donor's name might be frequently recorded in that and future volumes.

Mr. Heywood having replied in a genial and amusing speech, the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

Opening of a New Ring of Bells at Ringmer, Sussex.

TUESDAY, December 1st, was a red-letter day in this picturesque village, which is situated about four miles to the north-west of Lewes, the county-

town of Sussex. The parish church is an ancient structure, the tower of which was destroyed by lightning in the year 1600. Through the generosity of Mr. W. L. Christie, late M.P. for the now defunct borough of Lewes, a new tower has been erected at his expense. It is built of brick and flint, and is of the Norman style of architecture, being about seventy feet high. A new ring of eight bells has been placed therein, cast by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, and exhibited by them at the recent International Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace. Six were the gift of Mr. Christie, one the gift of Mr. J. W. Mudge, a gentleman resident in the neighbourhood, and the other by the parishioners, at the cost of nearly 600*l.*, being called the 'People's Bell.' The bells were dedicated to God's service in February last, but the ringing of them was deferred on account of the new state of the tower. December 1st being the birthday of Miss Christie, daughter of the donor, who takes great interest in everything concerning the welfare of the church, was considered a suitable day for the opening of the bells. The Brighton Branch of the Sussex Association of Change-ringers were invited to send a band of eight change-ringers for that purpose, and were successful in ringing a true peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Ten-part), 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 9 mins., the ringers standing as follows: W. Palmer, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; J. Searle, 3; C. E. Golds, 4; G. King, 5; C. Tyler, 6; J. Jay, sen. (conductor), 7; E. Butler, 8. All the ringers, with the exception of the treble ringer, are members of the Royal Cumberland Society of Change-ringers. Weight of tenor, 14½ cwt., in the key of F. The bells possess splendid tone, and are considered by some to surpass any in Sussex. Previous to starting for the peal, the ringers, together with a number of friends interested in bell-ringing, to the number of about forty, were entertained to a sumptuous luncheon, under the presidency of Mr. Christie, at the residence of the Rev. H. F. Fisher, the curate of the church, the room being decorated for the occasion. A band of local ringers has been formed, twelve in number, and, with the Rev. Mr. Fisher at their head, bid fair to make rapid progress in the art of change-ringing. A word of praise is due to the above-named reverend gentleman for making all the necessary arrangements, which were carried out without a hitch of any kind.

St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, Derby.

ON Friday evening, the 4th inst., the above Society held their first peal supper, which was provided by our worthy sexton, Mr. W. Shardlow, along with two or three other kind friends, who for some time past have expressed their desire to assist in celebrating the first peal rung by the Society, in which they take a great interest. The cloth being removed, the company indulged in handbell ringing, which consisted of a few courses of BOB MAJOR, &c., and afterwards a few songs. The first, given by Mr. Sidley, was a very laughable one, and several others by Mr. Found, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Mottashaw, and Mr. Gilbert, and other friends, were well rendered. Mr. Shardlow, in a few closing remarks, said it had been his intention to make each one of the ringers a suitable present in remembrance of the first peal; but as he had been prevented on this occasion, not through any want on his own part, he hoped before long to have an opportunity of doing so. A vote of thanks was afterwards accorded to Mr. Shardlow for his kindness, and also to those friends who had taken an interest in the surroundings.

Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association.

A COMMITTEE Meeting will be held in the church-room, Stoke, on Saturday, December 19th, at three o'clock.

E. D. POLLOCK, Hon. Secs.
E. GLOVER,

The Lancashire Association of Six-bell Ringers.

THE usual Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Leyland, on Saturday, December 12th. The bells will be open for ringing from two o'clock; business meeting at four o'clock in the schoolroom.

57 Chorley Road, Blackrod.

JAMES HIGSON, Secretary.

Death of Mr. John Cook.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Mr. John Cook, on Tuesday the 1st inst. The deceased had been for fifteen years foreman for Messrs. John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, and had superintended amongst other large works the fixing of the ring of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, being consequently well known amongst ringers. The remains were interred at the Cemetery on Friday, and, as a mark of respect, all the men who were at home followed the corpse to the grave. The funeral service was impressively read by the Rector of All Saints' (Rev. Thos. Pitts), by whose kind permission, after the ceremony, a peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, which is duly recorded in its proper place among this week's performances, was rung in 3 hrs. 25 mins., with the bells half muffled; all the ringers, with the exception of Joseph Hardy, being fellow-workmen of the deceased. It is perhaps worthy of notice that this is the first peal rung by Loughborough ringers exclusively for forty-four years, when Mr. Taylor, sen., rang the third.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 24th ult., 2520 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, being the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal, were rung in 1 hr. 31 mins. W. J. Reeves (Bexley), 1; W. Harper (conductor), 2; H. D. Davis, 3; W. Martin, 4; F. Hayes, 5; B. Spinner, 6; J. W. Aitkin, 7; G. Hayes, 8. All the above, except Mr. Reeves, are members of the Kent County Association.

At Barnwood, Gloucestershire.

ON Tuesday, the 1st inst., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR in 26

mins. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; W. Sevier, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; A. A. Waite (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

On Tuesday, the 8th inst., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang a peal of 720 CANTERBURY PLEASURE MINOR (16 bobs and 2 singles) in 26 mins. H. Barnes (first in the method), 1; J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; W. Sevier, 4; H. Mitchell (composer and conductor), 5; A. A. Waite, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At SS. Peter and Paul's, Milton-next-Gravesend, Kent.

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., six members of the Gravesend Society and the Kent County Association rang a peal of Bob MINOR in 26 mins. W. Royston, 1; W. Harper, 2; F. Hayes (conductor), 3; G. Hayes, 4; H. D. Davis, 5; B. Spunner, 6.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

On Friday, the 4th inst., the Midlands Counties Association of Change-ringers rang Holt's Original Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 25 mins. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; C. D. Taylor, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. The bells were rung half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to Mr. Cook, whose death is recorded in another paragraph.

On Tuesday, the 8th inst., the Loughborough band of change-ringers, assisted by the Rev. W. Pearson of Syston, rang for practice a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. A. Cresser, 1; E. D. Taylor, 2; C. Smith, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; Rev. W. Pearson, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (also of the Norwich Diocesan Association) rang a peal of 5007 STEDMAN'S CINQUES in 3 hrs. 39 mins. W. L. Catchpole (conductor), 1; J. Motts, 2; F. S. Alexander, 3; A. R. Aldham, 4; E. Pemberton, 5; C. Mee, 6; W. Motts, 7; R. H. Brundle, 8; F. Tillet, 9; S. Tillet, 10; F. G. Newman (London), 11; E. Reeve, 12. Tenor, 32 cwt.

At Basingstoke, Hants.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., several members of St. Lawrence's Society of Change-ringers, Reading, in conjunction with Mr. H. White of Basingstoke, rang Taylor's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. A. E. Reeves, 1; H. White, 2; R. T. Hibbert, 3; W. Johnson, 4; W. H. Holloway, 5; W. J. Williams (conductor), 6; W. Goselint, 7; J. Kirby, 8.

At Malsmore, Gloucestershire.

On Sunday, the 6th inst., five members of the Upton St. Leonard's Society paid a visit to the above parish, and, assisted by Mr. Brunsdon, rang a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR in 26 mins. W. Brunsdon,* 1; H. G. Gardner, 2; W. Sevier, 3; J. Baldwin, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 6. Afterwards a course of KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Brunsdon,† 1; J. Baldwin,‡ 2; W. Sevier, 3; H. G. Gardner, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett, 6. Tenor, 11½ cwt., in G. [* First 720 in the method. † First attempt.]

At Haddenham, Cambridgeshire.

On Monday, the 8th inst., two 720's of BOB MINOR were rung in 27 and 28 mins. respectively. J. Ellis, 1; W. King, 2; J. R. Vincent, 3; J. Davies, 4; A. Pilgrim (conductor), 5; J. Vail, 6. Tenor, 18 cwt. The above are the ringers of St. Mary's, Ely.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Church Reform.

SIR,—By way of comment on Canon J. Erskine Clarke's letter to the *Times*, quoted in your issue for this week, I may ask the attention of your readers to the following dialogue concerning the recent election of rural-decanal representatives for the parish from which I write.

Parishioner A.—'What was done at the Church meeting last night? Of course you were there?'

Parishioner B.—'Oh! There were about half-a-dozen people present, and the meeting was soon over. The old representatives were re-chosen. One of them said he had nothing to report about his doings in the past year of office, and the other said nothing.'

A.—'You might as well have chosen two walking-sticks.'

B.—'Ha! ha! That's too bad.'

A.—'But I suppose they fairly represent the Churchmanship of the parish—I mean the ignorance, indifference, and pretentiousness of our most correct Churchgoers?'

B.—'You are not far wrong.'

As to the correctness of the views of my two worthy fellow-parishioners regarding the rural-decanal representatives so complimentarily appraised I pronounce no opinion; but I say without hesitation that very many of the laymen who are now chosen to represent the Church at the rural-decanal and diocesan conferences of the diocese of Liverpool may be truly described as representing and exemplifying not *bonâ fide* Churchmanship, but 'ignorance, indifference, and pretentiousness,' and possibly this diocese is not singular in the matter. And would not 'Church Reform,' which would give to men of this sort 'a substantial share in the control of Church affairs,' be a worse evil than Disestablishment?

E. R.

The Church's Great Blunders.

SIR,—I was much pleased to read the letter of 'A Lay Reader,' in your number for 27th November. It would be well for our beloved Church if the clergy looked at Defence now in his light. Undoubtedly Churchfolk need to be informed on the subject of Church History, but we want something else of infinitely more value; viz., to humble ourselves in the dust before God for our apathy, indolence, and neglect of duty in the past, yea, and at the present also. What do the masses cry out just now when we talk of our parochial system, &c. &c.? 'Oh,' they say (as has been said several times to me within the last few days), 'what is the parochial system to us? I have lived in the same house for over three years, within a stone's-throw of the parish church; and yet no clergyman has ever called to see whether I was a heathen or a Christian.' There are three or four clergy attached to the church referred to, which is surrounded by a by no means dense population. This is no isolated case, but an example of too many cases that one has brought before one in 'house-to-house' visitation. True it is in many parishes that the clergy have too much to do; but it is not to these I now speak, but to those who have a greater attachment to their drawing-rooms, personal ease, and comfort, than attending to the neglected parts of their parish. Is it surprising that so many are in favour of Disestablishment? I think not. If each parish was visited throughout *once only in a year*, that would do more to stem the torrent of Disestablishment than twelve months' preaching against it. It would show the hundreds of people who never enter a church that we are a live and not a dead Church. ANOTHER LAY READER.

Magic Lanterns for Church Defence.

SIR,—It seems a good suggestion of 'J. H. T.' to use magic lanterns for this purpose. But allow me to suggest something further. Country clergy cannot call at a shop and select fitting slides for this subject. My suggestion is, that the Church Defence Institution should take up this branch of the subject, and lend out lanterns, slides, and well-printed lectures, to any clergyman applying for the same. Church Defence work would then penetrate among the working class in the best possible manner, and in such a form as never to be forgotten. The clergyman applying to pay all carriage. F.A.S.

Manual of Church History.

SIR,—Let me thank Canon Venables and your other correspondents who have kindly answered my query as to a Manual of Church History. I am using Mrs. Toogood's *Sketches from Church History* (Heywood, 1s.), which is very clear and to the point. It needs a little extempore expansion here and there. C. D. P. DAVIES.

District Visitors.

SIR,—In reading the report of the discussion at the Church Congress upon Women's Work, one cannot help being struck by the utter absence of all notice of the great body of *District Visitors*, by whom the house-to-house visiting of the poor has now been carried on, under the direction of the parochial clergy, for more than half a century. Long before there was a Sister or a Deaconess in the Church of England, hundreds of these visitors were devoting their time and strength and means to this great work; yet I have never, in any report of Church Congress or Diocesan Conference, or other meeting of the kind, seen the slightest recognition of the existence even of this great body of voluntary female workers, by whom, nevertheless, half the work of most parishes is carried on. The tendency of the present day is to supersede them by Sisters or Deaconesses, and a very fatal mistake I believe it will prove. I will venture to point out three dangers, at least, that it will entail:—

(1.) It will tend to increase that habit of 'parasitism,' whose fatal effects Drummond has so well pointed out in his admirable essays on *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*,—the habit of getting our worship and our work done for us by clergy, choirs, or sisterhoods, which is already so fatally eating out the spiritual life and vigour of half the worshippers in our churches. It has been hard enough to stir people up to any sense of their individual responsibility for work in God's vineyard and for the souls of their brethren. Transfer the responsibility to Sisters and Deaconesses, and the result will be what it has been in Roman Catholic countries, where intercourse with the poor is almost entirely confined to the clergy and the religious orders, while the ladies of the community have scarcely any knowledge of their poor neighbours at all. And this (2) will destroy a most valuable link between the higher and lower classes, at a time when such a link is more urgently needed than it ever was. No doubt organized bodies of women are specially suited for some special kinds of work; but I greatly doubt whether women living in the narrow routine of a community are as well fitted to enter into all the varied needs and cares and interests of their poorer neighbours as those who are living the freer and more varied life of home, with all its changes and chances, and sorrows and joys.

One other danger I would point out, and that is the growing tendency to separate the so-called 'religious' from the secular life—a distinction which finds no sanction in Scripture nor in our Scriptural Church; a distinction which fosters an overweening spiritual pride in those who are leading what they call the 'religious life,' which is often merely a following of their own inclinations, and not really half so 'religious' as the quiet daily round of one who is training up her children for God, or devoting herself to the care of aged parents, or perhaps quietly sacrificing nerves and health, and the whole spring of life, to the care of some poor 'black sheep' of the family, or some hopeless and fretful and exacting invalid. E. W.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.—'Rev. H. E. Jephson.'—We receive such a large number of appeals for aid for church building and kindred objects that we are unable to insert them except as advertisements.

RECEIVED ALSO.—C. G. Curtis; C.; Madeleine Worsley; E. R.; W. Macsally Toole; E. W.; and others.