

of so many English friends and lost us many a subscription to our impoverished funds.

The *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says: 'Samuel Dobbin, Esq., whom we believe to be the last of the acting surviving Vicars Choral of Christ Church Cathedral under the old *regime*, has generously provided handsome trees and shrubs for the adornment of the ornamental grounds in front of the Cathedral. These grounds will shortly be thrown open to the public. Seats have been provided for the aged and infirm, and it is to be hoped the people will protect this fine open space and garden which has been set apart for their use and recreation, and that when they visit the place they will remember that they tread not only upon historic but on holy ground.' Mr. Dobbin is an elder brother of the Rev. Canon Dobbin, of Cork.

The late storm did much damage to some of the churches. A sacred edifice in the county of Kerry was unroofed and a large portion of the spire of the Cathedral Church of Ross was blown down.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Change-ringing at Benington, Herts.

SIX THOUSAND OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

ON Friday evening, the 31st ult., the Society of Change-ringers, all resident in the above village, assembled in their belfry to welcome the coming of the New Year, and ring out with musical notes the departure of the Old Year, wishing every happiness and continued prosperity to their numerous kind friends and neighbours during the New Year. The musical ring of eight bells was raised in excellent style, and a fine touch of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR was rung, containing 1008 musical changes, with no cessation. Also a touch of that melodious method, SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, containing 448 changes, was well brought round. The bells were lowered in musical order, and all welcomed each other with a cordial greeting for happiness and prosperity during the New Year. N. Warner, 1; Joseph Kitchener, 2; L. Proctor, Esq., 3; John Kitchener, 4; J. Warner, 5; W. Hobbs, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; S. Page (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt., in F sharp.

On Saturday, the 1st inst., a fine peal of that musical method, DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, consisting of 6000 changes, was rung at the above village by the under-mentioned members of the Ringing Society, all resident in the village, and belonging to the Herts County Association of Change-ringers. N. Warner, 1; Joseph Kitchener, 2; John Kitchener, 3; L. Chapman, 4; W. Hobbs, 5; J. Warner, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; S. Page, 8, who ably conducted this excellent peal, consisting of 55 courses and 80 bobs, in 3 hrs. 32 mins.,

A new Public Clock at Windhill, Yorkshire.

A NEW public clock has just been erected in the tower of the new Town Hall, Windhill, by Messrs. James Shaw, Son, and Co., of Bradford. The order was placed in the hands of the firm named in August, and the result of their work is that a most useful and well-finished clock is now completed and in thorough working condition. The clock indicates the time upon four large illuminated dials, each measuring five feet nine inches in diameter. The escapement is upon the double three-legged gravity principle. The hour bell was cast on the premises of Messrs. Shaw at Bradford. It is named 'The Victory.' The firm have in hand a large Cambridge quarter-striking clock for Saltaire, and have just completed the rehanging, with all new fittings, of the ring of eight bells at the parish church, Burnley, Lancashire; also rehanging and retuned the ring of eight at the parish church, Knaresboro', Yorks. They also have in hand the rehanging, with all new fittings, of the ring of bells at the parish church, Roundhay; also the addition of two new treble bells, and the rehanging, with all new fittings and quarter-turning, of the old ring of six at the parish church of Skipton.

Some Account of a Veteran Change-ringer.

MR. BENJAMIN THACKRAY, of Dewsbury, Yorkshire, died in 1851, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was admitted by all his brother-ringers who knew him to be one of the most celebrated composers in England at the time of his death. He was the only man who composed PLAIN BOB TRIPLES without a single for the seventh bell to throw them in and out of course alternately, together with an immense number of other compositions upon six or eight bells, which have been published. Any difficult or mysterious question in the art of campanology which might have been a subject of dispute amongst his brother-ringers was very easily solved when referred to 'Old Ben.' He had been a ringer at the parish church of Dewsbury for fifty-six years, and had assisted in ringing upwards of fifty peals consisting of 5000 changes and upwards; the last, of 5020 changes, he completed in the tower of the parish church, Dewsbury, on his seventy-sixth birthday. A circumstance of a remarkable character here occurred, which shows his zeal for the cause; viz.: They had on this occasion begun ringing before they had determined how many changes to ring; a difference of opinion here arose, which was soon decided when the old gentleman boldly called for 5020 changes, which was completed in three hours and three minutes. He had assisted in winning twenty-four prizes upon six and eight bells; the last time he ever entered a tower was for a prize at Skipton on the 17th of May, 1850. When he was borne to his long home the ringers from eighteen churches attended; viz., Liversedge, Birstall, Mirfield, Kirkheaton, Almond-bury, Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Elland, Sowerby, Wakefield, Horbury, Darton, Rugby, Rothwell, Bradford, Low Moor, Tong, and Pudsey, who followed him

to his grave in funeral procession, a ringer from each of the above churches wearing a mourning scarf. The bells were muffled, and chimed as the funeral procession approached the church, amidst the largest concourse of people assembled in Dewsbury for a number of years. After his remains were carefully deposited in the grave his brother-ringers ascended the tower and rang a very solemn peal with the bells muffled.

The Bells at St. James's, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

THE bells of this church in ancient times consisted of a ring of four, but about the year 1829 William Dobson of Downham had orders to recast them into a ring of six bells, the tone of which seemed so to please the good people of Grimsby that two trebles were cast directly afterwards, two new pits being added each time to the old frame to take the eight bells, the whole ring being dated 1830. About thirty years since grave doubts began to be felt as to the safety of the tower (which is central), the building being a cruciform structure. Soon afterwards, some disagreement arising between the Rector and the ringers, ringing was abandoned, and Sir Gilbert Scott being called in condemned the tower, but no steps were taken to restore it. The bells were now clocked for services, weddings, &c., the result being that the 2nd, 5th, and 6th became badly cracked. Things remained in this state until the beginning of 1886, when a committee was formed, and the services of Mr. Withers, architect of London, were called in to once more safely place the bells in ringing position. Messrs. Warner of Cripplegate were entrusted with the recasting of the cracked bells and the making of a new frame of English oak, while local tradesmen put up a framing of posts and cross-braces from the lower and much thicker portion of the tower to receive the cage and bells, the whole weight being carried by eight corbels of York stone placed just over the centre arches, every part being kept quite clear of the upper portion of the tower. During the ten days previous to December 16th Messrs. Warner's men, under the direction of Mr. G. Dunn, placed the new cage on top of the strutting and rehung the bells. On the above date, in the presence of the architect, the rector (Rev. A. Young), and a large number of spectators, the bells were rung for the first time for twenty-seven years by the following:—W. Quick, 1; Rev. C. Moore,* 2; D. Seamer,* 3; H. Fuller,* 4; J. Mackenny, 5; C. Gordon, 6; G. Giffen, 7; C. Skinner, 8, to the great delight of the inhabitants, it being a new thing altogether to have a ring of bells, the nearest being four miles off and only four in number. [The ringers marked with an asterisk are local men, the rest being the hangers.] On the previous Tuesday there was a solemn dedication service for the new bells by the Bishop of Nottingham, when the hymns and usual services for such occasions were used. The bells are a remarkably musical ring, tenor 20 cwt., in E flat, the 'go' of them leaving nothing to be desired. It is to be hoped that with a good ring of bells in excellent order we may soon hear of the first 5000 being rung and of a good company of local men being formed, some of the old ringers yet being able to take part in the ringing, and the Hull ringers being within easy reach of Grimsby. The new belfry and the restoration of the tower are expected to be ready by the end of January. The whole of the work at present seems to give much satisfaction to the Committee and the inhabitants. Grimsby can now boast of a ring of bells second to none in Lincolnshire.

The Midland Counties' Association.

THE third Quarterly Meeting of the year will be held at Leicester on Saturday, the 8th inst., and the following towers will be open for ringing. St. Margaret's, ten bells; St. Martin's, ten bells; St. Saviour's, eight bells; St. Mary's, eight bells; and St. George's, six bells. Committee meeting in St. Margaret's schools. Tea at the St. Margaret's Coffee-house, opposite the church, which will be provided free of charge to visiting members, providing they give notice to the local Hon. Sec. of their respective districts of their intention of being present seven days before the meeting.

5 St. Paul's Street, E., Burton-on-Trent. JOSEPH GRIFFIN, Hon. Sec.

Surrey Association.

THE Quarterly Meeting of this Association will be held at St. Giles's, Camberwell (by the kind permission of the Vicar), on Monday, January 10th. The tower will be open for ringing from 4 to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m. Tea will be held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road, at 6 p.m., to be followed by the usual business meeting. All those who intend to be present at the tea are requested to send in their names to the Hon. Sec. by Thursday, January 6th, in order that provision may be made for them. Ringing members free; all others 1s. 6d. a-head.

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon. ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

Worcestershire and adjoining Districts Change-ringing Association.

THE Members of the above Association are requested to take notice that the next Quarterly Meeting will take place on Saturday, January 15th, 1887, in the King Street Schoolroom, Dudley. The Rev. Dr. Cosens, Rural Dean, will preside. Meeting to commence at 5 o'clock. The tower of St. Thomas's will be open for ringing during the day to members and ringing friends. Members to meet at Mr. E. Fellows', 'Beehive Inn,' Stafford Street, and to note that all subscriptions are due at this meeting, according to Rule 4.

25 Simms' Lane, Netherton, near Dudley. JOHN SMITH, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Parish Church, Crawley, Sussex.

ON Wednesday, the 15th ult., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang Johnson's Twelve-part peal of 5040 OXFORD BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 2 mins. G. Wickens, 1; W. Collison, 2; T. Smith, 3; G. F. Attree (Brighton), 4; M. Heffer, 5; F. Wickens (first peal as conductor), 6; A. F. Hellier, 7; E. Pearce (first peal), 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At All Saints', Maidstone, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Kent County Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 19 mins. E. Price, 1; R. Simmonds, 2; G. Pawley, 3; J. Ferguson, 4; S. Snelling (Sittingbourne), 5; A. H. Woolley, 6; H. Pearce (Aylesford, conductor), 7; J. Johnson, 8. Tenor, 31 cwt.

At SS. Peter and Paul's, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

ON Tuesday, the 28th ult., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 18 mins. C. Souter, 1; W. Souter, 2; J. Souter, 3; W. E. Tydeman, 4; W. Bedwell, 5; C. Mee (conductor), 6; H. A. Mills (first peal with a bob bell), 7; F. W. Brett (first peal), 8. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At Eccles, Lancashire.

ON Monday, the 3rd inst., a peal of 10,176 TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung by eight members of the Lancashire Association in 5 hrs. 58 mins. S. West, 1; J. Hopwood, 2; J. Barrett, 3; E. Cash, 4; E. Wreaks, 5; W. Sevier, 6; J. Eachus, 7; S. Wood (conductor), 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt. Composed by Mr. W. Harrison.

At St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

ON Tuesday, the 4th inst., eight members of the Ashton-under-Lyne Association rang a peal of 5184 TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 8 mins. J. Hopwood, 1; S. Wood (composer and conductor), 2; S. West, 3; A. Wreaks, 4; E. Cash, 5; C. Cash, 6; W. Gordon, 7; W. Sevier, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E flat.

AT ST. MARY'S, WOOLWICH, KENT.—ON Saturday, the 18th ult., an attempt was made to ring Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES; but after ringing 2016 changes in 1 hr. 20 mins. it failed through a change course. J. Beaver, 1; G. Hogg, 2; W. Bedwell, 3; J. C. Harvey, 4; W. Watchorn, 5; E. Wells (conductor), 6; E. E. Richards, 7; R. G. Carter, 8.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, WIDFORD, ESSEX.—ON Wednesday, the 22nd ult., for practice, 720 NEW LONDON PLEASURE in 25 mins. W. Harvey, 1; J. Daines, 2; A. Shuttleworth, 3; W. Lincoln (Whittle), 4; A. Tarbun, 5; W. J. Piper (first 720 in the method as conductor), 6. Also 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR in 25 mins. W. J. Piper, 1; J. Daines, 2; W. Lincoln (first 720 in the method as conductor), 3; A. Tarbun, 4; A. Shuttleworth, 5; W. Harvey, 6.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—ON Christmas Eve, 720 KENT TREBLE BOB; at 9.30 a.m. on Christmas Day, for service, 720 YORK SURPRISE; at the same hour on Sunday, the 26th ult., 720 LONDON SURPRISE; and at 5 p.m. on the same day, 720 WELLS SURPRISE. J. Clarkson, T. Burdon, T. Watter, W. Stephenson, T. Stephenson (conductor), and W. Newton.

AT STAPLEHURST, KENT.—ON Christmas Eve and Morning, parties of the Ringers' Guild here, consisting of J. Gransbury, W. Walter, W. Pope, W. E. Pope, J. Tillmon, H. G. Pope, E. Pope, A. E. Nunn (conductor), T. Colom, and Philip Sims, of Sittingbourne, rang several touches of GRANDSIRE, and two 720's of PLAIN BOB MINOR. On Monday, the 27th ult., a quarter peal (1260 changes), and several touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. They have to thank Mr. Thomas Reeves, of this parish, for a very useful portable table, fitted to carry their peal of twelve handbells.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—ON Christmas Night, 1008 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung by E. Pether, 1; E. E. Napper, 2; F. Napper, 3; D. Napper, 4; J. F. Napper, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; C. W. Allen, 7; A. Woodley, 8. Also on Sunday, the 26th ult., for Divine service, in the evening, 350 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Pether, 1; E. Pether, 2; F. Napper, 3; D. Napper, 4; J. F. Napper, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; C. W. Allen, 7; A. Woodley, 8.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, BOCKING, ESSEX.—ON Sunday, the 26th ult., for divine service in the afternoon, six members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR in 28 mins. F. Bumpstead, 1; W. Moore, 2; W. Bearman, 3; S. Sargent, 4; J. M. Hayes, 5; E. Carter (conductor), 6. Tenor, 19 cwt. [Messrs. J. M. Hayes and E. Carter came from London.]

AT ST. LAWRENCE'S, BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—ON Tuesday evening, the 28th ult., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang for practice a date touch of 1886 changes, in the following methods, in 1 hr. 12 mins.:—86 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES (two bobs and two singles), 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR (nine bobs), 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR (eighteen bobs and two singles), and 360 PLAIN BOB MINOR (four bobs and two singles). J. Yeates, 1; G. Miles, 2; D. J. Aston, 3; R. A. Barrett, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; A. A. Waite (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, HALESOWEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.—ON Monday, the 3rd inst., a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 46 mins. by the Halesowen Society, assisted by two members of the Old Hill Society, on account of illness of some of the Halesowen band. W. Green (Old Hill), 1; J. P. Heckingbottom, 2; E. Hackett, 3; H. Mason (Old Hill), 4; E. White, 5; R. A. Eaton, 6; — Raybould (conductor), 7; M. Hackett, 8. Also on Sunday, the 26th ult., a touch of 546 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung for evening service. J. Clarke, 1; J. P. Heckingbottom, 2; G. Cockin, 3; — Raybould (conductor), 4; E. White, 5; R. A. Eaton, 6; E. Hackett, 7; M. Hackett, 8. Tenor, 19½ cwt. [It is over one hundred years since any of the above methods were rung by Halesowen men.]

RECEIVED ALSO:—F. G. Ayling; and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Kirkstall Abbey.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in your issue of the 10th inst., respecting Kirkstall Abbey, and as I am the present lessee I must protest against your correspondent's remark as to some alleged 'profanation' of that place, which will give the impression that the lessee is careless as to the management, and also forgetful of the original purpose of such a building; this being not at all the case. Some fifteen or sixteen years ago your strictures might have been justifiable, the then lessee, my late uncle, being a non-resident, and, in consequence of his parliamentary duties, not able to give that amount of supervision to the management of the Abbey which was no doubt necessary, the result being that proceedings of an objectionable nature were allowed by the under-tenant, entirely at variance with the sacred character of the surroundings; but since my late father came into possession, in 1870, stringent rules were drawn up for the proper conducting of the place, and former abuses done away with. My late father took the greatest personal interest in the Abbey, and at his own expense undertook repairs necessary for the preservation of the chapter house, which, I believe I am correct in stating, is the most perfect specimen of the kind in the country; and it was at his instigation, with the co-operation of Colonel Akroyd, that a scheme was set on foot for the entire restoration of the Abbey, and a report obtained from the late Sir Gilbert Scott, with the above purpose in view, which was abandoned for want of the necessary funds. I beg to enclose a copy of the rules now in force for the management of Kirkstall Abbey, for your perusal, and I trust you will give publicity to this disclaimer.

J. THEOBALD BUTLER.

The Married Curate.

SIR,—‘A. B. A.’ writes in your last issue but one on behalf of the poor curate who rushes into matrimony. Permit me to add a word to his. The dilemma in which the unmarried curate is placed never seems to strike the mind of the ordinary observer. A man is only a curate—with nothing more than a curate's stipend—therefore, on the one hand, he *cannot marry*. He is not married, therefore, on the other hand, *not one patron in a hundred will give him a living*. Such is his wretched position. Is it, therefore, to be wondered at that many curates, having the first in their own power, enter the married state, at the same time comforting themselves with the thought that, at all events, they stand thus a far better chance of obtaining a living? I know a baronet who said (not to me), ‘I must have a married man here, otherwise my girls will be always down at the church.’ On the other hand, I heard only a few months ago of a poor curate who proposed to a peer's daughter and got accepted—the whole noble family aghast at his ‘impudence.’ But what was the result? A friend of the peer came unasked to the rescue and gave him a living, for which *otherwise* he might have waited—possibly to the end of the chapter.

A. M. A.

SIR,—I read with some interest the article signed ‘W. B.’ There was so much good sense in it that I am at a loss to understand the adverse criticisms of ‘A. B. A.’ and ‘A Married Priest.’ Imprudent marriages are sadly too common amongst the less wealthy clergy. Many a man thinks that when he is ordained Priest he is in a position to marry a lady without means on the strength of his 150l. The poor fellow thinks that ‘Gertrude’ has never been accustomed to extravagance, and that she will economise and make ‘Theophilus’ income go a long way. They marry young, and find out that the Curate's stipend does not increase with his years. ‘Theophilus,’ after seven or eight years' service, becomes dispirited and careless in his work; ‘Gertrude,’ with her increasing family, ceases to be the bright and cheery partner that her husband expected, and, as a matter of course, the parish suffers and the married curate is coldly pitied. The position of a bachelor priest in an agricultural or mining parish is a lonely one, but, as one who has had some experience, I say it must be endured for a time as the lesser of two evils. The mistake that is made by most men is that of entering into an engagement prior to ordination to the priesthood. I think that every candidate for the ministry, and, for the matter of that, every young clergyman, should read that excellent little book, *The Modern Curate Married, Unmarried, &c.* 1s. Skeffington & Son.

Let me conclude with a few hints to my younger brothers, candidates for the ministry:—

1. Avoid engagements before ordination.
2. Serve your ministerial apprenticeship of three years at the least before contracting marriage, if you lack private means.
3. Marry one that will bring some grist to the mill; if you cannot find such an one, wait.
4. Insure your life early, and provide for your relatives.
5. Join the ‘Clergy Pensions Institution,’ and be kind to your old age.
6. Be prepared (if you lack influential friends) to serve as a curate till you are grey-headed.

I am well aware that some will say that this is very hard on the ‘poor mouse.’ I answer, we have to deal with the Church's ministry as it is, not as it should be. The laity would help the clergy more if their guides were examples to the flock in these matters.

AN UNMARRIED PRIEST NOT BENEFICED.

SIR,—The article signed ‘W. B.’ in your last issue is well worth the attention of the younger clergy. But the truth is that English writers of fiction for the last century have been persistently misleading the people of this country on the subject of marriage. The whole tendency of popular novels is to exalt inclination above prudence, and what is called ‘love’ above