

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

St. Sidwell's and St. David's Societies of Change-ringers.

THE Annual Dinner in connexion with the above Societies took place at Brice's 'Bude Hotel' on the 5th inst. The Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote (rector of Upton Pyne) occupied the chair. The Hon. Secretary of the St. David's Society (Mr. R. Jerman) announced that he had received letters regretting their inability to attend from the Rev. E. Lang (curate of St. David's), and Mr. Heath (churchwarden of St. David's). The tables having been cleared the Chairman gave the toast of 'The Queen,' which was drunk with enthusiasm. Mr. C. Pearson gave the toast of 'The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese,' and in doing so said he thought that the success of every band of ringers depended very much upon the assistance of the clergy. The Rev. S. Hosking, in reply, said that he did not think that any belfry would get on well unless a complete understanding existed between the clergy and the ringers. As one of the clergymen of the diocese, he thanked them very heartily for the manner in which they had drunk the toast, and in conclusion he gave 'The Guild of Devonshire Ringers.' The Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote, in responding to the toast, said that, although his duties were not always pleasant—because he was treasurer of the Guild as well as secretary, and he had to be rather cranky and stingy over the funds sometimes—yet he could say that he had always been received with the utmost kindness by the members of every tower in which he had been. He hoped that all, however, would think that he had endeavoured to carry out his duties to the best of his abilities. He had always encouraged bands to join the Guild, and had done everything possible for the good of the Guild at large. Mr. S. Herbert proposed the toast of 'The St. Sidwell's Society,' and in so doing complimented the Society upon the progress they had made. Mr. F. Shepherd responded. The Rev. S. Hosking gave 'The St. David's Society.' Mr. R. B. West responded; and in the course of his remarks said that, with regard to the remarks of Mr. Herbert as to the St. Sidwell's ring being increased from eight to ten bells, he might state that St. David's only had six bells. These he should like to see increased to eight, and from his connexion with St. David's parish he should naturally use his endeavours to see this carried into effect. Mr. Rowden, whose name was coupled with the toast, also responded, and intimated that everything in his power which would further the St. David's Society of Ringers he should be most happy to do. Mr. R. Jerman proposed 'The Visitors,' and in so doing alluded to the valuable help rendered to the St. David's Society, which had only recently been started, by the St. Sidwell's Society. Mr. G. Fremantle replied. The remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial manner.

A Meeting at Bletsoe, Beds.

ON Saturday, the 22nd inst., a District Meeting of the Beds Association of Change-ringers was held at Bletsoe. There is a fine ring of bells at the parish church, cast in 1786 by Robert Taylor. These have been thoroughly overhauled and rehung with new iron frames and fittings complete by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, space being reserved for a new treble bell, to make six when obtained. There was a fair attendance of members, some of whom journeyed by train from Bedford; and on reaching Sharnbrook on the way raised the five bells there and rang several 120's, then proceeding by road to Bletsoe, where all were well received by the Rector. After inspecting the bells and fittings, touches of BOB DOUBLES, GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, ST. SIMON'S DOUBLES, BOB SINGLES, and STEDMAN DOUBLES, were continuously rung; the Rector and several members of his family and others being present in the ringing-chamber. At 4 p.m. tea was partaken of at the 'Falcon Inn,' through the kindness of the Rector, the Rev. F. H. Bolingbroke, after which ringing was resumed. It is upwards of forty years since change-ringing was executed on the Bletsoe bells, and then by the Rushden ringers. It is to be hoped that the study and practice of change-ringing will follow the well-executed restorations and improvements in the belfry. The inscriptions on the bells are:—

1. 'I mean to make it understood, That though I'm little yet I'm good.'
 2. 'Whilst thus we join in cheerful sound, Let love and loyalty abound.'
 3. 'Ye people all that hear us ring, Be faithful to your God and King.'
 4. 'I to the poor and needy am a friend, For whose relief I call you to attend. J. Coles & N. King, C. Wardens.'
 5. 'I to the church the living call, And to the grave do summon all. John Coles & Nicholas King, Churchwardens.'
- And on all the bells, 'R. Taylor, St. Neots, Fecit, 1786.'

The Midland Counties Association.

A MOST successful Quarterly Meeting of members of the above Association was held at Leicester on Saturday, the 8th inst., under the presidency of A. Percival Heywood, Esq. At the general meeting, which was held after tea, four ringing members were elected. The President stated that thirteen peals had been rung during the past quarter, making a total of forty-six peals rung by members of the Association since the Annual Meeting last Easter Monday. The question of a 'free tea' was again mentioned, and on the motion of Mr. John Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hickling, it was unanimously resolved that tea should be provided free of charge to visiting members at the next meeting, on the same conditions as proposed at the previous meeting at Loughborough. It was also unanimously decided to hold the Annual Meeting at Derby, on Easter Monday, April 18th, 1887. Mr. Stephen Cooper, Leicester, and Mr. W. Dawson, Derby, were chosen to audit the accounts of the Association. It having been brought to the notice of the President that the rules for the 'Easter Handbell Competition' made it possible for any one band to win all the prizes, the following addendum to the rules was unani-

mously passed:—'In the event of the same band being adjudged first for more than one of prizes 1, 2, and 3, such band shall receive only the highest prize to which they are entitled, but shall draw their stake for the rest; the other bands receiving the remaining prizes as if the first band had not competed.' Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to the respective vicars and churchwardens of St. Margaret's, St. Martin's, St. Mary's, St. Mark's, St. Saviour's, St. George's, and All Saints' Churches for the use of their bells, and to Mr. Heywood for presiding, which brought the proceedings to a close.

The Queen's Jubilee at Clare, Suffolk.

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows to the *Clare Free Press*:—'Sir,—It is daily announced by the newspapers that great preparations are being made in various parts of the kingdom to celebrate in some ostensible manner the fiftieth anniversary of her most gracious Majesty's accession to the throne of England. Surely the ancient town of Clare will awaken from her usual slumber and endeavour to do something to remember this momentous occasion? I beg to hint that it would be a great boon to the inhabitants of Clare if our noble octave of bells (tenor, 28 cwt.) could be rung again, and thus celebrate this glorious event with a grand peal as in days of yore. It seems a lamentable affair that the bells should rest so dormant, and I am sure it needs only "a hearty good pull and a strong one" by our leading residents to get them merrily ringing once more.—I am, Sir, ever your "LOYAL,"

Clare, Suffolk, January 4th, 1887.

An Historical Bell in France.

THE bell which for nearly seventy years has announced the opening and closing of the day's business on the Paris Bourse has, it seems, just cracked, and must be replaced. It is said to be a very old bell, dated 1647, and to have once belonged to the ancient convent of the Filles de St. Thomas, which stood on the site of the present Bourse.

Death of a well-known London Ringer.

MR. CHARLES WILSON, an old member of the Royal Cumberland Society, and well known as a first-class change-ringer, died on November 26th, 1886, at Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, aged seventy-seven, and was buried at the above village. On Thursday, December 30th, ten members of the above Society rang a half-muffled peal at the church of St. Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct, London, as a token of respect to his memory. Afterwards, touches of GRANDSIRE CATERERS were rung by W. Moore, 1; W. Fussell, 2; H. T. Davis, 3; T. Nelms (conductor), 4; T. Rumsey, 5; A. E. Church, 6; W. D. Matthews, 7; T. Barry, 8; D. Lovett, 9; T. Wheeler, 10.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Michael's, Hyde, Cheshire.

ON Monday, the 10th inst., eight members of the United Counties Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 2 hrs. 53 mins. J. Shaw, 1; R. Pritchard, 2; T. Bradley, 3; W. Slater, 4; R. Wooley, 5; S. Bradley, 6; T. Wilde, 7; J. S. Wilde (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

At St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

ON Saturday, the 15th inst., Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 16 mins. H. Sandells, 1; T. Salter, 2; J. Bennett, 3; C. S. Rowland, Esq., 4; J. Overton, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6; J. Crane, 7; H. T. Fowles (twenty-third birthday), 8. Messrs. Overton and Fowles belong to Bridgnorth; Washbrook, Oxford; the others from Kidderminster. Tenor, 22 cwt.

At SS. Peter and Paul, Foxearth, Essex.

ON Saturday, the 15th inst., eight members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. S. Slater, 1; J. Lee,* 2; J. Bird,* 3; F. Wells, 4; G. Maxim,* 5; R. Mingay,* 6; W. Gridley, 7; P. C. S. Scott, 8. Composed by Mr. D. Prentice of Ipswich, and conducted by Mr. Scott. Tenor, 8½ cwt. [* First peal in the method.] The above is a three-part peal, and has never been previously performed. It is also the first peal upon the bells, which were augmented to eight in December last. Messrs. Scott and Bird came from Long Melford, Slater and Wells from Glemsford, the others belong to the local company.

At St. Mary's, Worsley, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 15th inst., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5008 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 7 mins. E. Cash, 1; J. Barratt, 2; C. Cash, 3; J. H. Ridyard, 4; J. Welsby, 5; T. Derbyshire, 6; F. Derbyshire, 7; R. Ridyard, 8. Composed by Mr. W. Harrison and conducted by Mr. R. Ridyard. Tenor, 21 cwt. 14 lbs. [The brothers Cash and Barratt came from Eccles, the others belong to the local company.]

At the Parish Church, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

ON Saturday, the 15th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 12 mins. N. W. Tarling (first peal as conductor), 1; A. Brown, 2; T. Saban, 3; W. Morris, 4; H. Saban, 5; W. J. Pleasance (first peal), 6; P. Springham, 7; F. W. Tarling, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. Helen's, Abingdon, Berks.

ON Tuesday, the 18th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thesley's Bob-and-Single Variation of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 2 mins. H. Humfrey, 1; T. Short, 2; W. Sandell, 3; J. H. Viner, 4; H. Fruin, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; J. Brown, 7; H. J. Hyde (first peal), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E. The above was rung with the bells half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to the late Lord Iddesleigh. [W. Napper came from Didcot; H. J. Hyde, Drayton, Berks; the others from Abingdon.

At St. John's, Perry Barr, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 22nd inst., eight members of the Holt Society of Aston-juxta-Birmingham rang Brooke's Variation of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. J. Plant, 1; J. Sanders, 2; J. Buffery, 3; C. Stanbridge, 4; M. Murphy, 5; H. Bastable (conductor), 6; R. Johnson, 7; P. Conlon, 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt. in F sharp. Mr. Johnson came from Duffield, Derbyshire.

At St. Leonard's, Seaford, Sussex.

On Saturday, the 22nd inst., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 43½ mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; W. Palmer, 2; G. C. Hammond, 3; G. F. Attree, 4; J. Jay, sen., 5; C. E. Golds, 6; C. Tyler (conductor), 7; E. Butler, 8. Tenor, 10 cwt. 3 qrs. 15 lbs. C. Hammond belongs to the Ringmer Branch, and the rest to Brighton. Thanks are tendered to the Vicar, Rev. Mr. Buck, for granting the use of the bells. The church is an ancient building, built in the Early English style of architecture, with square embattled tower, the walls of which are of immense thickness. The ring of bells is a very musical one, and was cast by Mears in 1811, the opening peal being rung on December 27th of that year, which is recorded on a tablet in the belfry. The last 5000 was rung in 1850.

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

On Monday, the 24th inst., eight members of the Waterloo Society rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 51 mins. F. G. Newman, 1; A. E. Church, 2; H. J. Davies, 3; W. Coppage, 4; T. Taylor, 5; I. Barry, 6; G. R. Banks, 7; G. Wilds, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. The peal was Holt's Original Reversed, composed by Mr. Carter of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. Newman. First time rung in London.

At BOCKING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, the 2nd inst., for Divine service in the morning, six members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Essex Association rang 360 PLAIN BOB MINOR. A. Spurge, 1; W. Moore, 2; W. Bearman, 3; S. Sargent, 4; J. Hayes, 5; C. Bearman (conductor), 6. Also 360, in the same method, in the afternoon, the ringers standing as before. And on Friday evening, the 7th inst., 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR in 28 mins. A. Spurge, 1; W. Moore, 2; W. Bearman, 3; S. Sargent, 4; F. Warren, 5; C. Bearman (conductor), 6.

At ST. PAUL'S, BRIGHTON.—On Thursday, the 6th inst., a date touch (1887 changes) was rung by H. Eves, 1; H. Bennett, 2; A. Bennett (composer and conductor), 3; G. Biggarstaff, 4; W. Allfrey, 5; J. Reilly, 6; J. Fox, 7; J. Salmon, 8.

At ST. JAMES'S, BERMONDSEY, LONDON.—On Sunday evening, the 16th inst., for Divine service, ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang 1191 STEDMAN CATERERS. H. Langdon, 1; S. Joyce, 2; F. G. Newman, 3; G. T. McLaughlin, 4; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, 5; B. Battrum, 6; E. Horrex, 7; C. F. Winny, 8; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 9; E. Carter, 10. Also, after service, 520 TREBLE BOB ROYAL. J. Pettit, 1; S. Joyce, 2; F. G. Newman, 3; G. T. McLaughlin, 4; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, 5; B. Battrum, 6; E. Horrex, 7; E. Gibbs, 8; J. M. Hayes, 9; E. Carter, 10. Tenor, 25 cwt., in D. The above touches were rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Lord Idlesleigh.

At ST. HILDA'S, SOUTH SHIELDS, DURHAM.—On Sunday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association rang 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR, and other touches were rung with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect for the late Mr. Collin Wawn, who died at San Remo after a long and painful illness. It was mainly through the deceased gentleman's influence that the new ring of bells was procured for the above church. Mr. Wawn was an ardent change-ringer, and well known to the members of the above Association. The above 720 was rung with the tenors behind. R. Hopper, 1; James Moffit, 2; R. Scrafton, 3; T. Gates, 4; J. T. Gibson, 5; J. Moffit (conductor), 6; J. Hopper, 7; J. Rutherford, 8.

At KEIGHLEY, YORKS.—On Sunday, the 9th inst., for Divine service in the evening, eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a date touch (1887 changes) of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 1 hr. 6 mins. J. Bradley, 1; T. Thompson, 2; J. Normington, 3; A. Harcastle, 4; W. Smith, 5; M. Moore, 6; J. McGoun, 7; J. Scott (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt. The above was rung as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. John Wilkinson of Shipley. Composed by Mr. A. Sykes of Huddersfield.

At ST. PETER'S, EARLSHIEATON, YORKS.—On Monday evening, the 10th inst., with the bells deeply muffled, a date touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR (1887 changes) was rung in 1 hr. 9 mins., as a mark of respect to the late William Preston, of that town. J. Blakeley, 1; W. Idle, 2; T. Hall, 3; G. Ruddlesden, 4; J. A. Idle (composer), 5; J. Ruddlesden, 6; W. Byrom, 7; C. Senior (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At HOLY TRINITY, CASTLE HALL, STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.—On Thursday, the 13th inst., the following persons rang a date touch (1887 changes) of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 1 hr. 6 mins. J. Pownall, 1; H. Shaw, 2; A. Marsden, 3; E. Schofield, 4; S. Hill, 5; I. Schofield, 6; J. Bradley, 7; M. Pailthorpe, 8. Composed by A. Sykes of Huddersfield, and conducted by M. Pailthorpe.

At CHRIST CHURCH, WEST BROMWICH, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Thursday, the 13th inst., ten members of the Association for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a date touch of GRANDSIRE CATERERS (1887) in 1 hr. 10 mins. H. Hipkiss, 1; S. Reeves, 2; W. Cooper, 3; W. R. Small, 4; B. Hill, 5; J. Hall, 6; C. Price, 7; R. Hall, 8; C. Timms, 9; T. Adkins, 10. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson, Birmingham, and conducted by S. Reeves.

At GRAVESEND, KENT.—On Saturday, the 15th inst., an attempt was made at St. George's, by eight members of the Kent County Association, to ring Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, but after ringing two hours

there came a tremendous rattling at the lower belfry door. On going to ascertain the cause the ringers were informed that there was illness in the neighbourhood—a circumstance which, though of sufficient cause to stop the ringing, was very annoying to those engaged. G. Hayes, 1; G. Martin, 2; R. Simmons, 3; F. Hayes, 4; — Paulley, 5; J. W. Aitkin, 6; H. Pearce (conductor), 7; B. Spinner, 8. On Sunday, the 16th inst., for evening service, at SS. Peter and Paul, Milton-next-Gravesend, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. W. Louth, 1; H. D. Davis, 2; F. Ring, 3; B. Spinner, 4; G. Hayes, 5; F. Hayes (conductor), 6. On Saturday, the 22nd inst., 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. G. Hayes, 1; H. D. Davis, 2; J. W. Aitkin, 3; B. Spinner, 4; G. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

At ST. ANDREW'S, NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.—On Tuesday, the 18th inst., 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR, with the bells half-muffled, was rung in 30 mins. as a tribute of respect to the late Lord Idlesleigh. W. Prestidge, 1; F. Hotchkiss, 2; J. Townsend, 3; R. Round, 4; J. Prestidge, 5; J. Smith (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

At ALL SAINTS', BERNHILTON, SURREY.—At the weekly evening practice, on the 21st inst., a 720 of PLAIN BOB MINOR was rung with 32 bobs and 2 singles in 29 mins. H. Arney, 1; J. Trendell (conductor), 2; W. Walker, 3; E. Burtenshaw, 4; S. Smithers, 5; H. Bryant, 6. Tenor, 19¾ cwt., in E.

RECEIVED ALSO:—H. D. Davis; and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Married Clergy.

SIR,—The advice of 'A Waiting One' as to the means of escape from the horns of the dilemma which I pointed out is, 'Let him wait, and save.' It will greatly add to the practical value of this advice if 'A Waiting One' will further tell us *how much per annum* out of a salary of 130*l.*—at most 150*l.*—a man may be expected to save, who has to keep up the appearance of a gentleman? Or, to put the question in another form, in how many years will our bachelor have saved enough to furnish a house of two sitting-rooms, three bedrooms, and a kitchen, and with the help of his curate's stipend to keep himself, his wife, and a servant for the year during which he may be supposed to be in expectation of the forthcoming living? We have heard in the columns of *Church Bells* of such a thing as a priest being told that he is 'too old now for a living.' I never hinted, or wished to hint, that a man of no experience should be presented to a parish. But, surely, from six to ten years' apprenticeship should entitle a man at least to a salary that will enable him to have a wife and a house of his own. It appears to me that 'Reformer' is far nearer the truth than 'A Waiting One.' His whole letter is excellent, his last paragraph admirable. A. M. A.

SIR,—I should infer from the remarks of 'A Bachelor who has not forsworn Marriage' that either he has never lived in a country village, or that if he has, it must have been one in which there was a state of society rarely met with. In such a place as this his 'love-in-a-cottage' idea would no doubt work admirably. But in the ordinary English parish he would find that, although 'living in a small house, and in a simple way,' the married clergyman is obliged to keep up a certain amount of appearance. His position requires it. His wife would certainly not be any less the lady for dispensing with a servant, but his parishioners—at least, the poor and ignorant part of them—would not think so. These expect—and they have a right to expect—that the wife of their rector or curate shall be somewhat better than a hard-worked drudge, with no time on her hands for helping her husband with his visiting.

After disposing of the servant difficulty, your correspondent proceeds to provide for the children's education. 'If their parents cannot afford to send them to a boarding-school they are to send them to the National School or the Board School.' Let them send them to one of these interesting institutions by all means if they are not particular about the contractions of rustic morals and manners, and do not mind the occasional importation of some parochial nastiness. But let them not think that such a proceeding will earn them the respect of their people, who, on the contrary, in nine cases out of ten, will be very much dissatisfied at their clergyman's taking advantage of one of their own institutions; and rightly so. National Schools are for them, and not for those who are presumably their superiors.

We have next, after a declamation in favour of ecclesiastical poverty, the astounding statement 'that the Church is too rich as it is.' Surely your correspondent must have forgotten the numberless calls the Church has upon her resources, and the noble way in which she spends those riches with which God has prospered her! How is it possible for her to be too rich when she has so much to provide for?

We are told that 'we want more plain living.' I suppose this means a greater disregard to appearances, a greater readiness on the part of clergymen to reduce their families to the labourer's level. To ensure this happy state of things, bachelors who have not forsworn marriage are to steadily set their faces against girls with accomplishments—girls, that is, who can play, sing, speak foreign languages, or play lawn-tennis. They are to look for wives who can 'sweep out a home, or cook a dinner.' Most necessary qualifications no doubt, especially if the wife is to do the housework. In short, bachelor parsons are to look for wives with suggestive-looking hands; whether they are to be ladies or not apparently does not matter. Which is the worst: to marry a pudding-making, house-cleaning girl, with not two ideas in her head, or to marry an accomplished young lady whose only fault was an overdue fondness for tennis or skating, as the case might be? Poverty, as your correspondent very rightly remarks, is no disgrace! But it becomes a