

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Ringling in Roman Catholic Churches.

SIR,—As one who rang in the 5040 *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* at the dedication of St. Mary's bells, Bridport, on May 5th, as well as in the peal at St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral last August (which peal seems to have agitated some of your correspondents so much), allow me to say a few words in answer to 'R. N.' He asks whether it is right 'that our churches should ever, even in the smallest matters, be made a place for purely selfish gratification.' Now it very much depends upon what 'R. N.' means by 'selfish gratification.' Does he mean it in any bad and positively wrong sense; or would such expressions as 'secular amusement' or 'trial of skill' have defined his meaning as well? I am aware that I was not quite explicit enough in my former letter; but what I wanted to show was that ringing for a Church service, or in honour of a great Church festival, might be considered as a part of Church work, and done specially to God's honour and glory; whereas ringing long peals for pleasure could not be looked upon in such a light. For my own part, I considered that the short touch we rang immediately after the dedication at Bridport on May 5th, might be looked upon as a part of the service. But I considered that the ringing of the peal afterwards was more for a trial of our skill, and a test of the hanging of the bells, than anything else. Possibly, on such an occasion as the one in question, this, too, might be looked upon by some as a Church work; but in the majority of cases where long peals are rung the case is simply this:—A band of ringers choose some church where the bells go well to go for a peal in some given method, on any day which is most convenient for them all to meet; sometimes merely for the sake of doing the peal as a recreation; sometimes to get the first peal, or the first peal in some particular method, at such and such a place, or in such and such a county or district; sometimes to do the longest length on record; and sometimes to have the honour of having done a peal with a great weight of metal. How on earth any of these performances can be looked on as a Church work, done to God's honour and glory (in any higher sense than that all things which are not actually wrong, even our ordinary daily work, ought so to be done), I cannot imagine.

J. R. JERRAM.

St. Anne's, Salisbury.

The late Jubilee Peal at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

ACCORDING to promise, Herbert Hayes Twining, Esq. (who took the chair, and has been churchwarden for three successive years), invited the ringers to supper at the 'Shakespeare Hotel,' the meeting-house of the St. James' Society. Afterwards, the chairman proposed the health of Her Majesty and the Royal Family. A course of *GRANDSIRE CATERS* was then rung on the handbells by Messrs. Weatherstone, Haworth, French, Mitchell, and George. The Rector, Rev. J. Lindsay, D.D., and other gentlemen, were present; one of them proposed the health of the chairman, remarking how pleased he and his friends were to be at such a meeting of the parochial ringers. The churchwarden, in response, said he was gratified to be present, and to be in company with men whom he was sure were above the average, both in intellect and in strength, when they could ring 5127 changes at the first attempt. There was more applause when the chairman announced that he intended to place in the ringing-chamber a tablet to record the fact that a Jubilee peal had been rung during his churchwardenship to commemorate the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign. Some more handbell ringing and a few songs finished a pleasant meeting.

Royal Cumberland Society.

ON Saturday afternoon, the 4th inst., Messrs. Newton, Rogers, Fussell, Jacob, Cuttall, and Dains, were engaged in opening a new ring of six bells, tenor 7½ cwt., in B flat, by Messrs. J. Warner & Sons, at the church of Holy Trinity, Barking Road. The ring is of cheerful tone, and goes well. 720 PLAIN BOB and 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, with 120 STEDMAN DOUBLES, were accomplished. Tea was served at the Vicarage, with the Vicar at the head of the table. Mr. Dains returned thanks for the Vicar's kindness. Mr. Churchwarden Warte, and Mr. Organist Love, with several other gentlemen, subsequently became members of the Royal Cumberlands. A tutor has been engaged, and ringing practice is now the order of the day at Holy Trinity. We wish the young Cumberlands every success.

Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers.—Unveiling of a Memorial Window at Ilkley.

ON Saturday afternoon a memorial window to the late Mr. Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, formerly President of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers, which has been placed in the parish church of Ilkley, was unveiled. In connexion with the event a memorial service was held, at which there were present, at the invitation of the Vicar (the Rev. Howard Kempson, M.A.) and the churchwardens, a considerable number of change-ringers connected with the Yorkshire Association, whose June meeting was held during the evening. The window has been subscribed for by bell-ringers, not only of Yorkshire, but of other parts of the country. The erection of the memorial window has been carried out by the committee of the Yorkshire Association, on behalf of the subscribers. The contract was eventually given to Messrs. Powell Brothers, of Leeds. The window is an excellent example. The design is Gothic, with a representation of bells swinging in every conceivable position, and their tongues, ropes, and wheels all carefully shown in their proper places. Three transverse views of bells are given in the base, showing them at rest and as 'set' at hand and back-stroke. Care has been taken to introduce everything now used in change-ringing, including 'stays' and 'sliders.' Across the three lights run Gothic

scrolls bearing the words, 'O praise God in His holiness; praise Him on the strings and pipe. Praise Him on the well-tuned cymbals; praise Him on the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.' One leading feature of the window is a group of angels represented in the act of offering praise on strings and pipe. In the upper part of the middle light the heavens are shown opening, and permitting the sacrifice of praise to ascend, whilst hovering above is the emblem of the Holy Spirit sanctifying the offering. The window has the following inscription in brass:—'To the glory of God. In memory of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, historian and expositor of change-ringing. Died November 16th, 1885, aged forty-one. This window was inserted in 1887, at the sole cost of the change-ringers of this country.'

ON Saturday morning a half-muffled touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung on the bells of the parish church by the following:—A. Spurr (Ossett), 1; W. H. Howard (York), 2; W. Whitaker (Leeds), 3; J. Broadley (Bradford), 4; W. Stainforth (Birstall), 5; J. H. Hardcastle (conductor, Bradford), 6; J. T. Hollis (Wakefield), 7; J. McKell (Gargrave), 8. The muffles having been removed, visitors generally were allowed in companies to ring through the day, until the hour appointed for the service. The Leeds Parish Church bell-ringers rang for service. Ringers were present from Bradford, Leeds, Birstall, Tong, London, the Midland Counties, Durham and County, Liverpool, Wakefield, York, Bentham, Bingley, Batley, Keighley, Huddersfield, Holbeck, Ripon, Shipley, Sheffield, Pontefract, Masham, Newcastle, and other places. The ringers walked in procession from the National Schools to the church, and occupied the seats in the nave. There was also a large congregation of residents. The Vicar read the prayers, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Wigram, M.A., rector of St. Andrew, Hertford. The service was choral. Ps. ciii. and c. were sung, and the hymns were, 'All people that on earth do dwell,' 'O God, our help in ages past,' and 'Lord of heaven and earth and ocean,' the last chosen with special reference to the Queen's Jubilee.

At the close of the service tea was served in the National Schoolroom, and in the evening the business meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held in the same building. The chair was occupied by the President, Mr. William Snowdon of Leeds. After some discussion as to rules, and other business of a routine character, votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar of Ilkley for his arrangement of the special service, and to the other clergy, the organist and the choir, for their assistance; to the Rev. Canon Wigram; to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the bells; to the Ilkley Branch of the Association and friends for their hospitality; and to Mr. Wm. Mitton of Ilkley (hon. treasurer), Mr. R. Tuke of Bradford and Mr. Wm. Whitaker of Leeds (hon. secs.), for their services in connexion with the memorial window. The meeting placed on record the valuable services rendered to change-ringing by the late Rev. J. H. Fish, vicar of St. Paul, Burton-on-Trent, late president of the Midland Counties Association, and expressed its deep sympathy with Mrs. Fish in her great and sudden loss.

Reopening of St. Edmund's Bells, Exeter.

THE pretty and sweet-toned ring of eight bells belonging to St. Edmund's Church, Exeter, was reopened on June 7th after having been rehung, and the occasion was one of general rejoicing among the parishioners. The bells, owing to the unsafe condition of the bearings, &c., have not been regularly rung for many years past. Recently, however, the churchwardens and leading parishioners took the matter up warmly, the result being that a few months since Mr. T. Hooper, of Woodbury, received instructions to put the bells in a thorough state of repair. The bells, with the exception of the fifth, were in sound condition. The bell mentioned, however, had become cracked; and the work of recasting it was entrusted to Messrs. J. Gillet & Co., of Croydon, who efficiently carried out the task entrusted to them. Mr. Hooper has rehung the bells in a way which leaves nothing to be desired, and the ringing-chamber has been entirely renovated. Immediately the work of rehanging was commenced steps were taken to form a Society, having for its object the promotion of change-ringing and belfry reform in connexion with the Devonshire Guild of Ringers. In this respect the promoters were most successful, and succeeded in quickly placing the Society on a firm footing. Members were speedily enrolled, many of them being old hands in the art of change-ringing. The officers of the Society are:—President, the Rector (the Rev. W. W. Secretan); Vice-President, the Rev. H. W. McGrath; Treasurer, Mr. H. Swift; Secretary, Mr. W. C. Marsh; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Sydney Herbert. The Dedication Service commenced at 12 o'clock, with the singing of hymn 242, 'We love the place, O God.' The Proper Psalms used were the 29th and 150th, and the Lesson was taken from Numb. x. 1-11. The prayers were read by the Rector, and the Lesson by the Rev. H. W. McGrath. After hymn 395 had been sung, a break was made in the service to allow the ringers to ring a plain course of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES*. At the conclusion of the 'touch,' hymn 503 was sung; after which the Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote, rector of Upton Pyne, delivered an address, taking as his text Ps. xvi. 9, 'O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.' The singing of the hymn, 'Now at length our bells are mounted,' brought the service to a close. The collection was in aid of the expenses of the service. Immediately after the service, and during the day, short touches of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* were rung upon the bells. The ringers present included the Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote, Messrs. H. Swift, S. Herbert, Marsh, W. Goss, Townsend, A. W. Searle, W. H. Webber, E. Pitt, Richardson, Peardon, Halse, Trumen (Kenn), and others.

The Sussex County Association.

THE Report of the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers for the year ending December 31, 1886 (Brighton: C. Pell & Son), has reached us. The book is carefully and systematically arranged, affording information on

all points connected with the Association, and is well and clearly printed. We heartily congratulate the Association on its numerical strength, and also on the improvement effected in the ringing performances. At the same time, very much remains to be done in the last-named direction. On scrutinising the list of peals it will be found that they are nearly all of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES*, the only companies who have accomplished peals outside that method being those of Horsham, Warnham, and Crawley; while there is not a single peal of *STEDMAN TRIPLES* nor any peal of *MAJOR* whatsoever. In partial explanation of this, we must not omit to state that the Association is but two years old, and that it has already done a good work. We would merely suggest that some of the great energy displayed be diverted into more enterprising channels, and this we feel sure will quickly be done. On the whole, the Association is much to be congratulated, and gives promise of a long, vigorous, and useful life.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At SS. Peter and Paul, Foxearth, Essex.

On Thursday, the 9th inst., a peal of 5024 *BOB MAJOR* was rung in 2 hrs. 59 mins. G. Maxim, 1; S. Slater, 2; Z. Slater, 3; F. Wells, 4; O. Garwood, 5; R. Mingay, 6; N. Hawkins, 7; C. Sillitoe, 8. Tenor, 8½ cwt. Messrs. Slater, Garwood, and Wells, came from Glemsford; Hawkins, Belcham; Sillitoe, Sudbury; the others are local ringers.

At the Parish Church, Tottenham, Middlesex.

On Saturday, the 11th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5040 *GRANDSIRE MAJOR* in 2 hrs. 52½ mins. J. Davidson, 1; A. Fox (first peal of *MAJOR* inside), 2; E. F. Strange, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; J. Waghorn, jun., 5; G. B. Lucas, 6; H. A. Barnett, 7; W. Pye-English, 8. Composed by Mr. J. Carter and conducted by Mr. Barnett. Tenor, 20 cwt. All the band, except Mr. Strange, are members of the All Hallows (Tottenham) Society.

At St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks.

On Saturday, the 11th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 *STEDMAN TRIPLES* in 2 hrs. 58 mins. H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 1; T. Short, 2; C. Trinder, 3; F. Field, 4; T. Fulker, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; W. Hyde, 8.

On Tuesday, the 14th inst., at the same church, eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a Jubilee peal of 5040 *STEDMAN TRIPLES* (Brooke's Variation) in 2 hrs. 56 mins. T. Fulker, 1; G. Jones, 2; C. Trinder, 3; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 4; T. Short, 5; F. Field, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; F. Davis, 8. This is the first Jubilee peal rung in the diocese. The above peals were rung each time on account of meeting one short for *SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE*.

At the Parish Church, Halesowen, Worcestershire.

On Tuesday, the 21st inst., Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* was rung in 3 hrs. 5 mins., in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, by the following members of the Halesowen Change-ringing Society. H. Lea, 1; — Raybould (conductor), 2; J. P. Heekingbottom, 3; G. Cockin, 4; E. White, 5; R. A. Eaton, 6; E. Hackett, 7; M. Hackett, 8. Tenor, 19½ cwt. This peal has not been rung, nor any other, since the 9th day of June, 1776, by Halesowen men.

At ST. MARY'S, HITCHIN, HERTS.—On Monday, the 6th inst., 672 *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES*. J. Randall, 1; W. Allen, 2; F. Furr, 3; A. Squires, 4; H. Buckingham, 5; S. Hare, 6; J. Hare (conductor), 7; J. Foster, 8. Afterwards, 546 in the same method. W. Allen (conductor), 1; G. Spicer, 2; F. Furr, 3; H. Buckingham, 4; A. Squires, 5; S. Hare, 6; J. Hare, 7; G. Halsey, 8.

At SALISBURY.—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Wednesday, the 8th inst., 720 *BOB MINOR* (18 bobs and 2 singles) was rung by W. E. Tydeman, 1-2; W. W. Gifford, 3-4; T. Blackburne (conductor), 5-6. On Saturday, the 11th inst., a quarter-peal of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* (1260 changes) in 37 mins. W. E. Tydeman, 1-2; T. Blackburne (conductor), 3-4; W. W. Gifford, 5-6; H. D. Adams, 7-8. On Monday, the 13th inst., the same quarter-peal (1260 changes) in 37 mins. W. E. Tydeman, 1-2; T. Blackburne (conductor), 3-4; W. W. Gifford, 5-6; H. D. Adams, 7-8. This 1260 is the composition of the late Mr. Uriah Woodman, of Trowbridge, Wilts; and is supposed to be the first quarter-peal ever rung in the county by local men with bells retained in hand.

At ST. ANDREW'S, NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, the 12th inst., before evening service, 360 *GRANDSIRE MINOR* in 14½ mins. E. Hampton, 1; B. Townsend, 2; J. Townsend, 3; J. Smith, 4; J. Prestidge, 5; R. Round, 6. Also, after service, 720 *PLAIN BOB MINOR* in 30 mins. B. Townsend, 1; F. Hotchkiss, 2; J. Townsend, 3; R. Round, 4; J. Prestidge, 5; J. Smith (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt. The above was rung with the bells half muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Rev. J. Byrne, formerly curate of this parish, late of Bournemouth.

At ST. NICHOLAS, WARWICK.—On Tuesday, the 14th inst., the following members of the Ancient Society of College Youths of London attempted an opening peal of *STEDMAN TRIPLES* at the above church; but after about 2000 changes had been rung an accident brought matters to a close. Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 1; Rev. W. S. Willett, 2; H. Bastable (conductor), 3; A. Percival Heywood, 4; F. E. Ward, 5; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 6; G. H. Phillott, 7; A. Thomas, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. This ring has just been augmented to eight by the addition of two excellent trebles from the foundry of Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, who have rehung the whole ring. An engraving and description of the church appeared in No. 811 of *Church Bells*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Lancashire and the Bishopric of Sodor and Man.

SIR,—As one who for nearly ten years has been writing, in your columns and elsewhere, as to the need of a division of the diocese of Manchester with its population of some 2,500,000, I shall be glad if you will allow me to comment on a remark in your 'Notes on Passing Events' with reference to the vacant See of the Isle of Man. You say, 'For some reason or another it is thought that a Lancashire man should be appointed, and the names of Archdeacon Bardsley and Canon Stowell have been mentioned.' Well, as the Bishop of Sodor and Man has but a little diocese with some 50,000 inhabitants, it is not unnatural for Churchmen to hope that the next occupant of the See may be willing to give some help in the vast diocese of Manchester in the way of holding confirmations. It would facilitate this if the clergyman appointed Bishop of Sodor and Man were some one well known too, and trusted by, the people of Lancashire. Both Canon Stowell of Manchester, and the Archdeacon of Liverpool, fulfil this condition. Of Canon Stowell's whole ministerial career more than twenty years has been spent in Manchester, while Archdeacon Bardsley's clerical life has been almost wholly passed in Liverpool. Canon Stowell's, a man of Manx descent, has been a most successful parish priest in Manchester, the chief city of the great manufacturing diocese. Archdeacon Bardsley, of Lancashire descent, has a name respected all over Lancashire, and is Archdeacon of Liverpool, the great seaport which is so intimately connected with the Isle of Man.

H. C. R.

Christian Socialism.

SIR,—Your correspondent 'L. W.' gives a very strange account of 'Christian Socialism.' 'The Christian Socialist will tell us,' he says, 'that we are pilgrims journeying to a heavenly country, working on the way as to God and not as to man, keeping our pack as light and as small as may be.' Now the Christian Socialist would tell us nothing of the kind. He would rather strive to show us that we, as Christians, have duties to society. That the present competitive system under which men work for profit, seeking to 'lay up treasure upon earth,' utterly regardless of what becomes of their neighbours, is contrary to the spirit and teaching of Christ. He would strive to establish a system under which justice would be done to all, so that the doles (which 'L. W.' calls charity) would be unnecessary. He wishes to see the golden rule put into practice in our social system, and not merely preached from our pulpits. If the hope of 'future tangible benefit' is the only motive which will stimulate to action let us at once admit that Christ's command, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,' is effete and impossible to carry out, and let us substitute the maxim of the modern individualist, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of Mammon and his unrighteousness.'

PHILIP PEACH.

Pawlett Vicarage, Bridgewater.

Where are our Birds?

SIR,—As many lay people are readers of *Church Bells*, I may ask their attention to this very interesting subject, which is not without an important bearing upon the future of this land. It is almost certain that the very cold spring has delayed the arrival of birds, and has greatly again diminished their numbers. Martins of all kinds, swallows and swifts, are becoming far less numerous than they used to be. The remark as regards swifts hardly applies to this village, where they are abundant, and quite 'at home' under the house-eaves. But, generally, birds are scarce, and I think are becoming scarcer every year. It was an unfortunate circumstance that the Birds' Protection Act did not take all birds under its care, because, as now worded, bird-catchers professing to catch chaffinches, which they do not want, catch nightingales, and so are rapidly bringing about the diminution, if not extinction, of this favourite songster. Architects and builders deprive swifts, swallows, and martins, starlings, owls, jackdaws, and many other birds, of a 'chance' of living, dwelling, and making their nests, although no house is improved by the alterations, and life is needlessly deprived of some of its most beautiful charms. There are times when some birds are annoying. There is no bird without its use and its beauty. There are many ways of hindering them from doing much harm, and for many purposes of utility, as well as of pleasure, we cannot well afford to lose them. Londoners would be proud of a good rookery, and perhaps even an heronry, in Hyde Park; and probably the former might be secured, even if the latter were difficult to obtain. A little attention to the laws of nature might secure the presence of many birds in and about London, as well as in the country at large. As matters are now going on, we are in great danger of losing many species altogether, and of greatly diminishing the numbers of birds even where they still exist.

GEORGE VENABLES.

Bletchingly, Surrey, June 13, 1887.

The Clergy Seaside Rest.

SIR,—May I, as one who has repeatedly enjoyed the advantage of a pleasant and inexpensive holiday at the Clergy Seaside Rest at Margate, draw your readers' attention to the fact that a debt of 60l. now exists upon this excellent institution? If each beneficed clergyman who has experienced the advantages of the Rest would give an occasional offertory to it, or induce the wealthier laymen of his parish to subscribe to its funds, the annual deficiency would be readily met. The Rest is open to the clergy (and their wives) of all parties, and some sixty-six or seventy guests are annually received at the bare cost of their food—about 16s. each per week. Gifts of the Church papers and additions to the library would be thankfully received by the Lady Superintendent.

A LONDON INCUMBENT.