

a theory concerning the *authority* of orders, it does not matter which is established. In either case the succession necessarily excludes all so-called ministries not thus descended. It is a theory founded upon the necessity of valid succession. It is an excellent feature of the question that several great historic denominations are thus already committed to a theory of the "divine right" of orders transmitted alone by tactual succession.'

CHINA.

THE *Living Church* remarks on the too-little-known difficulties which attend the ministration of the Eucharist in China, as stated by Bishop Burdon, and alleges that the biscuits sometimes are not made merely of flour and water, but contain a good deal of grease.

THE *New York Churchman* says:— 'It seems evident that the future national Churches of both China and Japan will, under God's Providence, be the creatures of the combined efforts of the English and American Churches. But if white is the mourning colour in those lands, why should their Christian clergy be required to wear vestments of white?' And in all other matters which involve no point of Gospel faith, the same American journal advises every possible compliance with established local sentiments.

THE LEVANT.

By the decease of the well-known London divine, the Rev. W. Denton, the cause of Greek Intercommunion has lost one of its most *able* and *judicious* advocates. His attention was especially 'attracted' to the Greek Churches independent of the Patriarchates, as presenting the most hopeful prospects of revival and reformation. The Servian Legation in London was represented at his funeral, and respectful honours have been paid to his memory in Servia itself. He was decorated some years ago with the Servian orders of Takovo and St. Saba.

SWITZERLAND.

THE Swiss Federal Council has, in pursuance of the new Swiss Marriage Law, abolished the custom which existed for many years at Neuchâtel of allowing the celebration of marriages there between Englishmen and their deceased wife's sisters. This custom used to bring a good deal of money to the Canton. But henceforth this avenue of escape from the laws of England, the canons of the Anglican Church, and the teaching of the Reformers, will happily be closed.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A Jubilee Clock at Goldington, near Bedford.

A LARGE Jubilee Memorial Clock has just been completed at the above place, which strikes the hours and shows the time on one large dial. John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, carried out the work. They are also making a large jubilee memorial clock at Gravesend; and a very large clock and chimes have just been erected in the church tower of Mayfield, Sussex, by the same firm. It is fitted with all the latest improvements, the hours are struck with a 60-lb. hammer, has a double three-legged gravity escapement, and a very heavy compensated pendulum. Messrs. Smith have also just completed a similar clock at Myland church, near Colchester.

An Old Ringer at Lewes, Sussex.

As usual, the new year was ushered in by the ringers at Southover church. Under the conductorship of Mr. E. C. Goldsmith the bells were started at a few minutes before twelve. Following the example of the Brighton ringers they were rung the reverse way, starting with the tenor instead of the treble. This style was kept up until the clock struck twelve, when a merry peal was rung in the ordinary way. Mr. B. Burfield, the veteran ringer, again assisted. He is now eighty-six years of age, and has been connected with the bell-ringers at Southover Church for no less than sixty-four years, and during that period has only on one occasion missed ringing in the new year. Another peal was rung early on Sunday morning.

Anniversary at St. Mary's, Diss, Norfolk.

THE fifty-first anniversary of these bells was held on Friday, the 6th inst., when ringers from Eye, Banham, Kenninghall, and Aylsham, attended and enjoyed a pull on its fine ring. At 2.30 the ringers sat down to a substantial dinner, the Rev. A. A. Wilkinson, the esteemed curate of the parish, presiding. The healths of 'The Queen,' 'Chairman and Vice-chairman,' were duly honoured, and some good ringing in Oxford Treble Bob was done during the afternoon and evening.

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Quarterly Meeting in connexion with the above Society was held at Bilston on Saturday, January 7th, when the following towns were represented: West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Wolverhampton, Wombourn, Perry Barr, Darlaston, Willenhall, Tipton, Tamworth. Some touches of GRANDSIRE and STEADMAN TRIPLES and GRANDSIRE MAJOR were rung, and an excellent address was delivered by the Rev. C. Lee of Bilston; after which a committee meeting was held in the vestry, when it was decided to hold the next meeting at Bloxwich on Saturday, April 14th.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At All Saints', Carshalton, Surrey.

ON Wednesday, the 4th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 56 mins. A. J. Plowman (age, 13 years), 1; E. Bennett, 2; C. Martin, 3; C. E. Malin, 4; J. Plowman (conductor), 5; C. Bance, 6; W. Buskin, 7; H. Brooks (birthday, 63), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G sharp. A. J. Plowman was elected a member of the Association.

At Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

ON Friday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEADMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 22 mins. C. Hounslow, 1; C. Tolley, 2; R. Browning, 3; W. Smith, 4; Rev. F. E. Robinson (birthday, 55), 5; T. Payne, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; G. Tolley (Headington, Oxon), 8. Tenor, 42 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 7th inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5088 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 7 mins. G. Taylor, 1; W. Idle (birthday, 23), 2; W. Ainley, 3; I. Idle, 4; J. A. Idle (first peal as conductor), 5; G. H. Hardy (composer), 6; W. Byrom, 7; D. Stephenson, 8. Tenor, 114½ cwt. First peal in the method by all the ringers. Messrs. Idle, Byrom, Taylor, and Hardy, came from Earlsheaton; Stephenson, Ossett: the others belong to Dewsbury.

At St. Martin's, Tipton, Staffordshire.

ON Monday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Association for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. H. Mills, 1; G. Hughes (conductor), 2; A. Hill, 3; J. Horton (West Bromwich), 4; W. Micklewright, 5; S. Jesson, 6; W. R. Small, 7; B. Starkey, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt. Mr. Micklewright (Dudley) was made a member of the above Association.

At St. Margaret's, Leiston, Suffolk.

ON Monday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 1 min. W. Taylor, 1; A. G. Rodwell, 2; F. Wilson, 3; H. Button, 4; A. Lincoln, 5; T. Staulkey, 6; G. Lindoff (conductor, Kent County Association), 7; J. Flegg, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E.

At St. Peter's, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Tuesday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 3 hrs. A. Brindley, 1; H. Bailey, 2; A. Pennington, 3; S. Churton, 4; H. Page (conductor), 5; W. B. Allison, 6; J. Austin, 7; T. Rose, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt. This is the second complete peal known to have been rung in the Potteries, the first on Stoke bells, and the first in the Potteries accomplished by a local band of ringers.

At Christ Church, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

ON Saturday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. E. Cashmore, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; T. Horton, 3; E. Woodhall, 4; C. Timms, 5; A. Hill, 6; W. R. Small, 7; S. Slater, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt. The first peal on the bells.

At the Parish Church, Braughing, Herts.

ON Tuesday, the 17th inst., an attempt was made to ring 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, but it failed after ringing eleven courses. J. R. Haworth, 1; Jos. Kitchener, 2; John Kitchener, 3; L. Chapman, 4; S. Page, 5; Jabez Warner, jun., 6; C. Sharnbrook, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 8. Afterwards, three courses of CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

AT MERSHAM, KENT.—The old custom of ushering in the Christmas morning was observed as usual. The band met at 6 o'clock and rang a touch of 1056 BOB MAJOR. On Wednesday, the 28th ult., a touch of 960 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR; on Saturday, the 31st ult., a touch of 912 BOB MAJOR; and on Saturday, the 7th inst., 1036 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, conducted by E. Ruck, sen. The following took part in the ringing: E. Ruck, sen. and jun., D. Paine, G. Paine, W. Jay, E. Gower, F. Finn, E. Finn, and S. Finn.

AT ST. EDITHA'S, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday, the 1st inst., a date touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 7 mins. J. Windridge, 1; C. Chapman, 2; J. Wainwright, 3; J. Timms, 4; F. Chapman, 5; H. Slaney (conductor), 6; G. Woods, 7; R. P. Brindley, 8. Composed by Mr. Carter of Birmingham.

AT ST. SIDWELL'S, EXETER.—On Sunday, the 1st inst., a date touch of 1888 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES composed by Mr. J. Carter, of Birmingham, in 1 hr. 5 mins. C. Carter, 1; W. Stocker, 2; A. Shepherd, 3; S. Binfield, 4; W. Mundy, 5; E. Shepherd (conductor), 6; F. Shepherd, 7; B. Mundy, 8.

ON Sunday, the 8th inst., for morning service, 420 STEADMAN TRIPLES. F. Shepherd, 1; S. Binfield, 2; A. Shepherd, 3; F. Davey, 4; W. Mundy, 5; J. Moss, 6; E. Shepherd (conductor), 7; C. Carter, 8. Also in the evening, 1260 STEADMAN TRIPLES in 44 mins. F. Shepherd (conductor), 1; S. Binfield, 2; A. Shepherd, 3; F. Davey, 4; W. Mundy, 5; J. Moss, 6; E. Shepherd, 7; J. Lake, 8.

AT LOUGHBOROUGH.—On Sunday, the 1st inst., for Divine service in the morning, a date touch of 1888 GRANDSIRE CATERERS. F. A. Underwood, 1; A. Cresser, 2; A. R. Aldham, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; E. D. Taylor, 6; W. A. Tyler, 7; W. Birkinshaw, 8; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 9; W. T. Billingham, 10. Composed by Mr. T. Hollis.

AT EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, the 1st inst., a date touch of 1888 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 10 mins. J. Rollison, 1; E. Willoughby, 2; H. Bennett (conductor), 3; L. Huggett, 4; W. Avann, 5; J. Potter, 6; T. Lewis, 7; T. Hart, 8.

AT ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST'S, CROYDON, SURREY.—On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., an attempt was made to ring a muffled peal of UNION TRIPLES as a last token of affection and respect for the late Mr. Urban Holman, a member of the Croydon Society, the Surrey Association, and the College Youths, who died on Thursday, December 29th. It was found to be impossible to finish the peal when nearly half had been rung, so the bells were allowed to come round

in 2352 changes, which were accomplished in 1 hr. 35 mins. H. Dudley, 1; G. Russell, 2; H. C. Haley, 3; A. B. Carpenter (conductor), 4; W. States, 5; T. Verrall, 6; A. Bruce, 7; S. Fisk and S. Mayhew, 8. After which the usual whole-pull and stand was rung. All the ringing was performed with the bells deeply muffled.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, WALTON, CHESHIRE.—On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., a date touch (1888 changes) in 1 hr. 15 mins.—viz., 720 LONDON NEW BOB, 720 COLLEGE SINGLE, 360 OXFORD BOB, 60 PLAIN BOB, and 28 OXFORD TREBLE BOB. G. Thornley (conductor), 1; J. Harwood, 2; H. Hunt, 3; H. Brewer, 4; J. Eccles, 5; J. Mather, 6. Tenor, 16 cwt., 3 qrs., 26 lbs.

AT SS. PETER AND PAUL, MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND.—On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., for practice, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR in 26 mins. W. Tiple, 1; H. D. Davis, 2; W. Ansell (first 720 on an inside bell, and first 720 in any method), 3; C. Waterman, 4; F. Hayes, 5; G. Hayes (conductor), 6. W. Ansell came from Cobham; C. Waterman, Shorne; G. Hayes, Swanscombe. The rest belong to the local company.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER, LIVERPOOL.—On Thursday, the 5th inst., eight members of the Liverpool Youths' Society started for Thurstan's peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, when in the tenth part the ringer of the second wished the bells to be called round, which was done at the half-way, after ringing 1 hr. 37 mins. Richard Williams, 1; W. Davies, 2; J. R. Pritchard, 3; C. Williams, 4; W. Booth, 5; T. Hammond, 6; Robert Williams (conductor), 7; W. Brooks, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

AT ST. SEPULCHRE'S, HOLBORN VIADUCT, CITY OF LONDON.—On Thursday, the 5th inst., a muffled peal was rung in memory of Mr. C. Rolfe, the late Vestry Clerk, by D. Lovett (conductor), 1; N. Davis, 2; W. Moore, 3; C. Holmes, 4; J. Nemes, 5; J. Wheeler, 6; A. Church, 7; W. Matthews, 8; J. Rumsey, 9; Jos. Barry, 10.

AT ST. CHAD'S, SADDLEWORTH, LANCASHIRE.—On Friday, the 6th inst., a date touch of 1888 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 1 hr. 7 mins. J. J. Brierley (conductor), 1; J. Radcliffe, 2; E. Buckley, 3; J. H. Shaw, 4; J. L. Buckley, 5; James Radcliffe, 6; J. Wood, 7; B. Wood, 8. Composed by the late Mr. W. Harrison.

AT CHRIST CHURCH, WEST BROMWICH, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday, the 8th inst., after evening service, a touch of GRANDSIRE CATERS (1888 changes) was rung in 1 hr. 10 mins. J. Hares, 1; T. Horton, 2; S. Reeves, 3; J. Frisby, 4; W. R. Small, 5; J. Hall, 6; C. Timms, 7; R. Hall, 8; C. Price, 9; H. Hipkiss, 10. Composed by H. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Samuel Reeves.

ST. EDMUND'S SOCIETY, EXETER.—On Sunday, the 9th inst., eight members rang a date touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1888 changes) in 1 hr. 3 mins. A. Searle, 1; S. Herbert, 2; H. Swift, 3; E. Pitt (composer and conductor), 4; W. Goss, 5; W. Marsh, 6; W. Richardson, 7; S. Meadows, 8.

AT ST. GILES', NORWICH.—On Tuesday, the 10th inst., a date touch of 1887 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 1 hr. 12 mins. F. H. Knights, 1; J. Smith, 2; G. Moy, 3; W. Bales, 4; A. Neale, 5; F. Knights (conductor), 6; J. Skinner, 7; G. Smith, 8. Composed by S. Marsh, West Bromwich. Neale and Moy came from Aylsham.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, LANCASTER.—On Tuesday, the 10th inst., a half peal of 2520 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 35 mins. R. S. Hirst (conductor), 1; W. Clayton, 2; R. Walker, 3; R. Smart, 4; H. Wilcox, 5; W. H. Hirst, 6; T. J. Parker, 7; W. Jackson, 8.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sunday Schools.

SIR,—In reply to 'T. H. K.' I feel that we owe much gratitude to the Church Sunday School Institute, and I have, on many occasions, expressed this feeling. I am acquainted with many of the manuals of the Church Sunday-school Institute, and consider most of them to be very good. Whether the remark that 'some people have a mania for all sorts of pet schemes and fancy hobbies' is intended for me in any way I cannot tell, except that I see no meaning to the phrase where it occurs, if it is not intended for a rebuke for me. Be it so. I still say, and am very glad of this opportunity to reassert what I have often stated before, (1.) That our Sunday Schools need graduated lesson-books, and far more system than generally pertains to the teaching within them. (2.) That a whole year ought to be devoted to preparation within them for candidates for Confirmation. I believe that Confirmation, carried out aright, would become a spiritual power of immense force amongst us. I am no admirer of Popery, and indeed I believe in the ultimate downfall of the Roman Catholic system and its special uncatholic beliefs. But I think the life of Dupanloup, late Bishop of Orleans, will, if studied, bring many Churchmen to recognise the preciousness of catechisms and catechising. I have followed the habit of catechising now for over thirty years, and I say, (3.) catechising ought to become general, but that the catechist must thoroughly prepare himself for his work beforehand. (4.) As to the paged Prayer-book (S. P. C. K.) it was at my most earnest request, during the cotton famine, and after some trying experiences, when I and my valuable Scripture-reader (now at Brighton, Mr. George Martin) had numbered the Prayer-books with our own hands, and could speak with authority upon the excellence of the scheme (the original is with me now), that the S. P. C. K. were good enough to 'page' the Prayer-book. Unfortunately, the method was adopted with many editions of various sizes, and this greatly interfered with the utility of the plan. I then published a still better plan, applicable to Prayer-books of any size and any edition, numbering not the pages but the paragraphs—a plan which must ultimately prevail. I risked the publication of 20,000

copies, and met with small encouragement. Mr. Henry Frowde kindly came to my rescue or I should have been a very serious loser by a scheme by which I never could have gained anything. As it was it cost me, not many months ago, a loss of more than one hundred pounds.

I rejoice as much as any one in the marvellous improvements making in the supply of Sunday-school lessons, and extra services in church (unwisely called children's services). But they are a small and very imperfect instalment of what must come. The lessons ought to be more graduated and systematic. Each lesson should have a little practical turn given to it. Confirmation classes should be formed in which too (according to Dupanloup) real personal conversion is to be much aimed at. As to finding the places in the Prayer-book, the numbered paragraph plan renders this easy enough. But if churches are to be attended, as they ought to be, every Sunday, for Matins and for Evensong, by the same people, I am satisfied that this needless sameness which exists in these two offices must be removed.

I always endeavoured to urge that time be given to turn out any required 'place' in Prayer-book or Hymn-book. But in many churches not a moment is given, even for kneeling or for rising from kneeling.

G. V.

A New Mode of Reading.

SIR,—I do not understand whether 'A Layman' would like the clergyman to precede the reading of any Lesson by reading 'the subjects of which each chapter treats,' as they are placed in many Bibles just before the chapter? If this is so, I venture to suggest that in very many instances the instruction afforded in this manner would not be by any means sufficient. It was after following the practice of a three-minutes' commentary at the close of the Old Testament daily Lesson for several years that I introduced the plan of a prologue of two to three minutes in length, and my experience leads me to write now—'By all means adopt this method.' I venture to declare my conviction, that 'he that readeth and they that hear' will all derive great benefit from the practice. I am sure the reading would often be greatly improved by the reader having to give a brief statement of what he was about to read. I will try to give at foot, if it be not too presumptuous, a specimen of what I mean, to precede the first Lesson of this (Jan. 13) morning's prayer:—

E. S.

'You know that at the S.E. of the Land of Promise is a sea or lake of very salt water. Thirty-seven centuries ago this site was one of the most fertile spots in that country. It had four or five flourishing cities and a large population. The whole land seems to have sunk, perhaps by an earthquake, and at the same time a fearful volcano probably burst forth and the cities were destroyed. The Lesson tells us the moral cause of this physical disaster—how God uses natural events to bring forth at the right moment His judgments. It also contains an account of one of the most beautiful pleadings in prayer of one man for others that can be found anywhere. Nor was the prayer altogether lost. God granted all that Abraham requested. And the spirit of his prayer was fulfilled in the safety of Lot. Probably Abraham felt sure that not less than ten righteous would be found in Lot's family. It is a solemn evidence of the fearful influences of sin that Lot's family had fallen so low. Some men think little about dwelling at a distance from church.'

A Working Woman's Plea for Working Women.

SIR,—I have never written a letter to an editor before, but when one has a grievance I think one is supposed to air it in a newspaper, and I have chosen *Church Bells* to air mine; that is, of course, if you will allow it. I am very fond of reading *Church Bells*—it is almost the only paper I do read—for I can read that on a Sunday, and I have very little time for reading through the week. But to come to my grievance. There is so much said and done now-a-days for the working men, Institutes and Clubs are always being opened for their benefit; but who ever says or does anything for the working-man's wife, the working woman? Now I am a working-man's wife, and we have seven children, ranging in age from just over twelve down to five months, so I know what I am talking about. These places are said to be opened to give the poor man a chance of spending his evenings away from his cheerless home. Now we are not all slatterns—at least I know I am not: my fireside is as bright at the present moment as it can be, and my kitchen tidy, and the little ones all in bed, but my husband is not here. The dear man requires a little change and recreation after his hard day's work, and of course he is gone to seek it. He can read his paper and play his game of whist or crib much better at the coffee-house. I know there are a great many homes, even in this small town, that are far from comfortable, but what can a poor woman do? How can she keep a good fire if she has no coals? and how can she get plenty of coal when there are eight or nine mouths to be filled, and backs to be clothed, and rent to be paid, all out of a pound a-week? And if the home is cheerless for the man is it not equally so for the poor woman? She is always in it; she doesn't leave it all day to do her work in peace as he does; she has to keep leaving her work to attend to the children, who are always more or less fretful: it is only in story-books the children play prettily in the corner of the room, and the baby crows in the cradle, while the washing is being done. And what a miserable day washing-day is in a cottage home at this time of the year, when it has all to be dried in-doors! The man can leave it to his poor drudge of a wife, to do her worst and best, while he warms his toes and abuses Mr. G. or Lord S. at the bright fireside of the Institute.

Now why is there not a room for women at these places? and why cannot the husbands stay at home at least one night a-week, and let the wife have a turn-out? There would be no need to provide amusements for her: she would most likely take it with her in the shape of a little needlework. But only think what a relief it would be to get away for a few hours, and have a friendly chat or bit of gossip with any neighbour she might meet! I am sure suppose the women's gossip would be more harmful than their husbands'.