

evil being cut off for Him at one stroke, and infinite possibilities planted in Him, available for us all. Thus, perhaps, the origin of species by the transmutation of individuals may in time take its place among the possibilities, if not the certainties, of science; and the great mystery of Christianity, instead of remaining for ever an isolated fact, may be classed as an orderly sequence and term in creation.

But, be this as it may, the development of species by Transmutation, whether it took place by minute variations, as Darwin supposes, or by some force unrecognised by Darwin, as geology seems to require, or whether each species was created direct from the dust of the earth—so long as God is the Creator, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, no Christian need tremble for his faith.

J. F.

THE MANCHESTER CHURCH CONGRESS.

THE following Programme has been drawn up by the Subjects Committee :

FREE TRADE HALL.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND.

10.30 to 1.—*President's Address*.—To what extent results of Historical and Scientific Criticism, especially of the Old Testament, should be recognised in Sermons and Teaching.

2.30 to 5.—*The Church in Wales*:—(a) Tithes; (b) Work; (c) Vernacular Preaching and Literature.

7.30 to 10.—*Working Men's Meeting*.—The Needs of Human Nature and their Supply in Christianity.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD.

10.30 to 1.—*Foreign Missions of the Church of England and of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America*:—(a) To English-speaking people, in the Colonies, in other Countries; (b) To non-Christian people—Mohammedans, Buddhists, Hindus, &c.

2.30 to 5.—*Philosophic Doubts*:—(a) Atheism; (b) Agnosticism; (c) Pessimism.

7.30 to 10.—*Working Men's Meeting*.—Hindrances to Church Work and Progress.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH.

10.30 to 1.—*Adaptation of the Prayer-book to Modern Needs*:—(a) Creeds and the Thirty-nine Articles; (b) Catechism; (c) Services.

2.30 to 5.—*Maintenance of Voluntary Elementary Schools*: should the Education in them be Free and Religious?

7.30 to 10.—*Working Men's Meeting*.—Economics:—(a) Competition; (b) Co-operation; (c) Over-population.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

10.30 to 1.—*Devotional Meeting*.—Christian Service:—(a) Worship; (b) Almsgiving; (c) Work; (d) Home Life.

2.30 to 5.—*Church Finance*:—(a) Proportionate Giving; (b) Endowments and their effect on Voluntary Contributions; (c) Redistribution of Endowments and Taxation of Incomes.

7.30 to 10.—*Working Men's Meeting*.—Sunday Observance:—(a) Closing of Public-houses; (b) Opening of Libraries, Museums, &c.; (c) Sunday Recreation and Travelling.

TOWN HALL.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND.

2.30 to 5.—How to Supply the Defects of the Parochial System by means of Evangelising Work.

7.30 to 10.—Gambling and Betting.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD.

2.30 to 5.—*Temperance*: Demoralisation of Uncivilised and Heathen Races by the Drink Traffic.

7.30 to 10.—*The Sunday-School System in relation to the Church*.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH.

2.30 to 5.—*The Bearing of Democracy on Church Life and Work*.

7.30 to 10.—*Conversazione*.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

2.30 to 5.—*Eschatology*:—(a) Punishment; (b) Restoration.

7.30 to 10.—*Lay Help*:—(a) of Man: in Things Secular; in Things Spiritual; (b) of Woman: in Sisterhoods; as Deaconesses; as Nurses; as District Visitors; as Teaching Sisters.

CONCERT HALL.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND.

2.30 to 5.—*The Duty of the Church to Seamen*.

7.30 to 10.—*Positivism*: its Truth and its Fallacies.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD.

2.30 to 5.—*Disposal of the Dead*:—(a) Funeral Reform; (b) Cremation.

7.30 to 10.—*Social Purity*.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH.

2.30 to 5.—*Lay Representation in Church Councils, and Statutory Parochial Councils*.

7.30 to 10.—*Free and Open Churches*; Reserved Seats and their Influence on Attendance.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

2.30 to 5.—*The Increase of the Episcopate*.

7.30 to 10.—*The Desirableness of Reviving the Common Religious Life of Men*:—(a) Clergymen; (b) Laymen; (c) in connexion with Missions to the Heathen.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The late Mr. C. Boxall.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. C. Boxall, at the age of sixty-seven at his residence, Arundel Lodge, Howard Road, Dorking, on Monday, February 23rd, after a short illness. The remains were interred on the following Saturday in the Dorking Cemetery amid sorrow and sympathy, a large number of friends following the cortege. Amongst them were about thirty ringers from Dorking, Leatherhead, Ashted, Reigate, Betchworth, Buckland, &c. Deceased was a member of the College Youths, the Winchester Diocesan Guild, and had been a member of the local company for over fifty years, having rung his first peal at the age of seventeen; he was also captain and treasurer of the local society. Deeply muffled touches of GRANDSIRE and UNION were rung before and after the funeral service, and in the evening an attempt was made for a peal, but finished after ringing 1 hr. 50 mins. Muffled touches were also rung on the Monday evening following.

Restoration of the Bells at Stratton Strawless, Norfolk.

THE fine ring of six bells in St. Margaret's Church in this parish have for a long time been in a most unsatisfactory condition, as they were neither tunable nor ringable. Some months ago Miss Helen Matchett, daughter of the rector, made an appeal for funds to put the bells into a fitting and proper condition. Too much credit cannot be given to this young lady for the energy she has displayed. All lovers of bells and all practical ringers, as well as the parishioners, must tender her their hearty thanks. Thursday, March 15th, was the day appointed for the opening ceremony. At 11 a.m. a short and simple service was conducted in the church by the rector (the Rev. H. H. Matchett, M.A., R.N.). Special Psalms and Collects were used, and the well-known hymn,

'Now at length our bells are mounted
To their holy place on high.'

was very heartily sung by the choir and the ringers and congregation present. Immediately after service ringing commenced. A well-struck 720 of OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung by the following band:—F. Day (Eye), 1; G. Day (Eye), 2; Rev. N. Bolingbroke (Secretary Association of Ringers, Norwich Diocese), 3; G. Moy (Aylsham), 4; P. Sadler (St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich), 5; Captain A. P. Moore (Redenhall), 6. The Aylsham band next took the ropes and did some excellent ringing, as also the St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, band at a later hour. The ringing was continued by the local men, and others from Coltishall, Hevingham, Marsham, Tunstead, and Worstead. The work of restoring the bells has been carried out by the firm of G. & F. Day of Eye, Suffolk, and has been most skilfully and carefully completed. The old frame has been strengthened, and the bells have been rehung with new stocks, wheels, and all other gear. The bells have been fitted with reversible crown staples, so that at any time the clappers may be made to strike upon a fresh point. They have also been tuned, so now give forth a sound musically correct. All present acknowledged that the 'go' of the bells was excellent. A chiming apparatus on the Ellacombe system has been constructed, and is the gift of the rector and his family in memory of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The handbell-ringing and tune-playing of Mr. Knights and his company added to the life of the gathering.

Ely Diocesan Association.

THERE will be a Meeting on Easter Monday at Ely. The tower of St. Mary's will be open to ringers. Dinner and Business Meeting 2 p.m., charge, 2s. As this meeting is most important, the Committee earnestly hope for a large attendance. Members and friends intending to be present should signify their intentions without delay to the Hon. Sec. The usual concession has been applied for to the G.E.R. K. H. SMITH, Hon. Sec.

The Cambridge Road, Ely, March 19th.

The Bedfordshire Association.

THE Annual General Meeting of this Association will be held at Bedford on Easter Monday next. Change-ringing at St. Paul's and St. Mary's churches during the day. A dinner will be provided at the 'Clarence' Hotel at 1.30, to be followed by the transaction of the usual business. At 5.30 p.m. a short special service will take place at St. Paul's Church. Members and friends desirous of dining with the Society are requested to send in their names without delay to

CHARLES HERBERT, Hon. Sec.

Woburn, Beds, March 19th.

Kent County Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Crayford on Monday, the 16th April. Committee Meeting at 2 p.m. to fix the place for the Annual Meeting and other business. It is proposed to ring at Dartford and at Erith. Those who wish to attend are requested to communicate with the Secretary, Rev. R. K. Hugessen, Wrinsted Court, Lenham.

Worcestershire and adjoining Districts Change-ringing Association.

THE next Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held on Easter Monday, April 2nd, in the Chapter-house, Worcester Cathedral, at 2.30 p.m. The Rev. T. L. Cloughton, M.A., Canon of Worcester, has kindly consented to preside. The towers of All Saints', St. Helen's, St. Swithin's, St. Martin's, St. John's, and arrangements are being made for the cathedral bells (if possible), to be open for ringing. All members who have not received notice to take this as one, and to note that all contributions not yet paid should be paid at this meeting, so that all names can appear in the Annual Report. Business:—To read notice convening meeting. To read minutes of last meeting. Confirming (or otherwise) of same. To propose new members. To consider a resolution passed at a previous meeting. Election of President,

Vice-Presidents, Lay Vice-Presidents, Master, Secretary, Treasurer, and Management Committee; and other miscellaneous business.

37 Simms Lane, Netherton, near Dudley.

JOHN SMITH, Hon. Sec.

The East Derbyshire Association.

A FORMAL Meeting was held in the Church Schoolroom, Clay Cross, early in October, 1887, which was adjourned till October 27, when the following belfries were represented; Ashover (five bells); Old Brampton (five bells); Crich (five bells); Clay Cross (six bells); North Wingfield (six bells); South Normanton and Morton (five bells). The Rev. G. Shipton (of Brampton) was elected to the chair, when the following gentlemen were unanimously elected as officers. President, Rev. Canon Massey, South Normanton; Vice-President, Rev. J. B. Nodder, Ashover; Hon. Treasurer, Rev. J. Oldham, Clay Cross; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Green, Clay Cross. The objects of the Association are similar to those adopted by the Midland Counties' Association. The first Annual Meeting will be held at Clay Cross on Easter Monday, when a sermon will be preached in St. Bartholomew's Church by the President. The bells will be open at 10 a.m., when all ringing friends will receive a hearty welcome.

The Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Derby on Easter Monday, April 2nd, and the usual towers (except St. Luke's) will be open for ringing between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Committee Meeting in St. Andrew's Parish-room at 3 p.m. Tea in the Schoolroom at 4 p.m.; tickets, 1s. each. General Meeting and Election of Officers immediately after tea, to which all ringers and friends are earnestly invited. Business:—(1.) To receive Officers' Report and Treasurer's Accounts; (2.) Election of Officers for the year 1888-9. Nominations (by Derby District):—President, A. Percival Heywood, Esq., Duffield Bank; Hon. Treasurer, W. Wakley, Burton; Hon. Secretary, J. Griffin, Burton. The Easter Hand-bell Competition will take place after the General Meeting. 5 St. Paul's Street East, Burton-on-Trent. JOSEPH GRIFFIN, Hon. Sec.

Though not at the head of the list of Diocesan and County Associations as regards number of peals rung in the year, the Midland Counties' Association is *facile princeps* in the matter of methods; and this last, we shall always maintain, is the true test of ringing skill and perseverance. There is little that calls for comment in the Report (published by Bemrose & Sons, Derby). The Association has achieved forty-three peals in ten methods; the balance-sheet exhibits a balance of cash in hand; and the members have increased from 245 to 273. There is an appreciative notice of the late Rev. J. H. Fish, whose sudden death was so sadly mourned by all.

The Long Peal at Appleton, Berks.

THE long peal of GRANDSIR CATERS at Appleton will not be attempted on Easter Monday, but on some future day, which will be duly announced.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, London.

ON Thursday, December 15th, 1887, eight members of the St. James' Society rang a Jubilee peal (Brook's Variation of Tharstan's peal) of 5040 STEDMAN TRILFES in 3 hrs. and 5 mins., to commemorate the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign and the tenth year of the Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., as Rector of this church. H. Langdon, 1; F. Bate, 2; W. Cecil, 3; W. Weatherstone, 4; W. W. Thorne, 5; R. French (conductor), 6; A. Hayward, 7; G. Woodage, 8. The following is the copy of a tablet placed in the ringing-room:—Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., rector; Rev. H. A. Geake, A.K.C., curate; G. A. Gillett, rector's warden; R. D. Hilton, J. Lansdale, churchwardens; G. Woodage, belfry keeper. This tablet was given by the Rector, Churchwardens, and other gentlemen; J. Rockley, G.B.A., J. Palmer, J. Stanford, and the above ringers.

At St. Peter's Cathedral, Liverpool.

ON Tuesday, the 13th inst., ten members of the Liverpool Youths' Society rang a peal of 5001 STEDMAN CATERS in 3 hrs. 15 mins. R. Williams, 1; J. R. Pritchard (composer), 2; T. Hammond, 3; C. Williams, 4; H. Coley, 5; G. Fisher, 6; W. Booth (conductor), 7; W. Davies, 8; Robert Williams, 9; W. Brooks, 10. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. Lawrence, Appleton, Berks.

ON Tuesday, the 20th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang 5376 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 10 mins. W. Finch, 1; E. Holifield, 2; T. Payne, 3; W. Bennett, 4; J. Avery, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; G. Holifield, 7; J. W. Washbrook (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At St. Sepulchre's, Holborn Viaduct, City of London.

ON Sunday, the 25th inst., the Annual Sermons were preached in aid of the Parochial Boys' and Girls' Schools, when the fine ring of ten bells (tenor, 31 cwt.) were rung at each of the three services, and the ringing conducted by Mr. Nelms and Mr. Lovett. The Bishop of Marlborough (Suffragan Bishop of London), preached in the morning, the Rev. J. R. Kennedy-Bell in the afternoon, and the Bishop of Brisbane (Dr. W. T. Thornhill-Webber) in the evening. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex attended in the morning.

On Monday, the 12th inst., at the above church, the local company, assisted by Messrs. Coppage of the Waterloo Society, and E. Elburn of Amersham, Bucks, rang muffled touches on the occasion of the funeral of the late Mrs. Bedford, wife of the vestry clerk of this parish.

RECEIVED ALSO.—F. E. Dawe (it will appear); W. J. Sevier; A. B. Carpenter; C. Gordon.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Unprofitable and Useless Prophecies.

SIR,—You thus designate (*Church Bells*, March 16) a statement to the effect that the death of the German Emperor paves the way for 'the greatest European war ever known.' I have not seen, and know nothing of the origin of the advertisement in the *Standard* from which this is quoted, and which goes on to assign certain dates to certain great coming events.

But, Sir, I do think it is worth while to point out that the Books of Daniel and Revelation offer to our notice a series of coincident (not contradictory) numbers by way of dates; and that these numbers, jointly and separately, have enabled many scholars and commentators to understand that between 1789 and 1920 events would happen in the world which imply plainly enough the break-up of certain existing empires and institutions, and the end of all things.

Passing over the names of two great men who studied and wrote on prophecy—Bishop Newton and Sir Isaac Newton—I come to a man who in 1701 wrote a book, in which he pointed out that 'at least before the year 1794' there would happen 'some new mortification to the chief supporters of Antichrist' [the Pope], and 'perhaps the French monarchy may begin to be considerably humbled.' (*Rise and Fall of Rome Papal*, p. 75.)

Elsewhere Fleming gives his reasons, drawn from Scripture, for anticipating 'the total and final destruction of Rome Papal in or about the year 2000.' (*Ibid.* p. 93.)

When these words were published Louis XIV. was in the plenitude of his power; and that evil days were in store for either the French monarchy or the Papacy might have been justly deemed the most improbable of contingencies.

Since Fleming's time many eminent and skilful students of prophecy have written on these matters; and it may be shown clearly that, however much the world may wonder, yet the French Revolution of 1789, the humiliation of the Papacy, by the imprisonment of the Pope by Napoleon in 1809; the break-up of the Turkish Empire, beginning with the Greek Revolution of 1820; the flight of the Pope in 1848; the downfall of Austria in 1859, and again in 1866; the uprising of Italy in 1860; the degradation of Spain; the downfall of France and uprising of Germany in 1870; the further humiliation of Turkey in 1834, 1840, 1853, 1877, and 1882—have all been important zero points in the prophetic barometer, the index to which is to be found in Dan. vii. 25; viii. 13, 14; xii. 7, 11, 12; Rev. xi. 2, 3; xii. 6, 14; xiii. 5.

We know from Ezek. iv. 6, that in prophecy a day stands for a year; and each of the periods mentioned in the series just cited represents 1260 years, 1290 years, 1335 years, and 2300 years respectively. And how these are critical periods in the history of Europe will be seen in Elliott's *Horæ Apocalypticæ*; Hoare's *Rome, Turkey, and Jerusalem*; Albert Barnes's *Commentary on Daniel and Revelation*; Grattan Guinness's *Approaching End of the Age*; and other works; and last but not least, in Bishop Christopher Wordsworth's *Is not the Church of Rome the Babylon of Revelation?* a most interesting and valuable shillingsworth.

If I thought you would give me space for two or three articles on this subject, I would gladly prepare a concise summary of the present state of our knowledge on these topics, in which it would be easy to show, by the testimony of others (no original crotchets of my own!), that a great European war is drawing near, the like of which it has never before fallen to the historian to describe; and that this war is merely a subsidiary incident in a series of events recorded in dim outline in Holy Scripture; of which the French Revolution of 1789, the downfall of the Papacy in 1866, and the wasting of Turkey (at this moment going on), are to be regarded as prophecies fulfilled; the unfulfilled features including a European war, probably initiated by Russia; the restoration of the Jews to Palestine as their own possession, independently of Russians and Turks; and the entire sweeping away of Pope and Popery, already undermined and toppling over as the result of 1866, which was the 1260th year of the rise of the Papacy in one of its hydra-headed aspects.

G. F. CHAMBERS.

Carlton Club.

Journalistic Preachers.

SIR,—Your correspondent, 'S. I.', does not relish the truth being brought home to those clergymen who have received such a strong rebuke at the hands of the reverend gentleman he refers to as a popular Bloomsbury preacher; but there are others, besides the reverend gentleman alluded to, who think that it would be much better if many of the newly ordained deacons and priests knew a little more of everyday life, and would show that they had a knowledge of what is passing in the world, whether their Bishop requires them to pass an examination in political economy or not. Cultured and serious men do not care for hearing a preacher tell them that 'it' is a personal pronoun, nor that the Disciples found the colt at a place where two ways met, and brought it to their Master, and then ask the congregation if they have been found and brought to Christ? And yet such things are said from the pulpit. Again: there are clergymen in the Church who are so anxious for numerical results that they will hunt up any number of persons who are willing to be confirmed, so that the numbers may tell as to their zeal, not at all caring whether they are prepared or not. Is not this inviting men (if not literally from the beer-shop to the sacrament), unprepared to the sacrament, and should not such be preached against? But for doing so is the preacher to have applied to him such characteristics as unfairness, untruth, clap-trap, and vulgarity? I did not hear the sermon referred to, but am sure that 'S. I.' has no right to apply vulgarity to the language used by the preacher, as the said preacher is incapable of using vulgar language. As