

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE first Diocesan Synod for the present year was that of Limerick, held on Thursday last in the cathedral church of St. Mary, Limerick; the Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Graves, in the chair. There was a very fair attendance of clerical and lay Synodsmen present. The Dean, Dr. Bunbury, acted as secretary for the Bishop; Canon Gabbet as secretary for the clergy; and Lord Monteagle for the laity. The Bishop, in addressing the Synod, said the Report of the Board of Religious Education made no boast of its successes; but the figures which it exhibits were highly satisfactory. In order to do the work upon which it had entered the Board required to be supplied with ample funds. He saw no reason why it should not do what was done in his other diocese, which was to provide the means of adequately inspecting and stimulating the progress of secular education in our Church schools. This might be accomplished by granting result fees to reward the teachers who earn them by their diligence and capacity. The resources needed to accomplish these ends were more liberally provided in Kerry than in Limerick. The Report of the Diocesan Council exhibited a view of our financial position which, considering the circumstances of the times, might be regarded as on the whole favourable. After transacting the usual business, receiving the reports of the various diocesan organizations, and electing the members of the Council and of the General Synod and Diocesan Board of Patronage, the Synod adjourned. His Lordship leaves this week to attend the Lambeth Conference in London.

On Thursday week the Primate held his triennial Confirmations for the Rural Deanery of Drogheda in St. Peter's Church in that town, when seventy-eight young persons received the rite. The Rev. John Eccles, rector of the parish, acted as his Grace's chaplain. The Irish Primate, Dr. Knox, is the oldest Bishop, by date of consecration, of the Home Episcopate, as the Bishop of Guiana is of the Colonial Episcopate. His Grace will be present at the Lambeth Conference next week.

The fourth annual Choir Festival of the parish churches of the Ards district, diocese of Down, was held on the 14th inst. in Portaferry church, when ten parochial choirs, representing 170 voices, were present. The Rev. F. W. Hogan, rector of All Saints', Eglantine, presided at the organ.

It is not so long since we were obliged to record the malicious burning of the beautiful parish church of Killarney. Another sacrilegious outrage has since taken place in the county of Kerry. On the morning of Monday, the 10th inst., when the sexton arrived to open Ballyseedy Church, near Tralee, he found that one of the stained-glass windows of the sacred edifice had been broken during the previous night. Several stones were found scattered about inside the church, proving its malicious character. The Rector, the Rev. Frederick Foster, has served the usual notice of a claim from the County Grand Jury for compensation, to be levied off the district.

The Church correspondent of the *Daily Express* says, 'Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists, have now united—the first-mentioned through the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, the second through their General Assembly, and the third through their Annual Conference—in protesting against Home Rule, and deprecating the evils it is certain to bring upon the country.'

All the Irish Bishops, with the exception of the Bishop of Tuam, who is invalided, will be present at the Conference. The Bishop of Derry was one of the London preachers on the Sunday following the death of the late German Emperor. His Lordship preached before a crowded congregation in Westminster Abbey, taking for his text 1 John, v. 15-17; on which he founded a very eloquent and touching address, in the course of which he spoke of the many virtues which adorned the character of the Emperor Frederick.

The Bishop of Columbo, Dr. Copleston, son-in-law of the late Archbishop Trench, has been paying some visits in Dublin. On Saturday last his Lordship delivered a most interesting and instructive lecture on Buddhism in the Jellicoe Hall, Alexandra College, which was open to the public for the occasion.

The Associates and friends of the G.F.S. in the south-western division of the diocese of Cork spent a pleasant day during this month in the beautiful grounds of Castle Bernard, near Bandon, some of them coming for the purpose a distance of seventy miles from the extreme west of the county. At 11 a.m. Divine service was held in Ballymodan parish church, afterwards the members attended a meeting in the library of the Castle, where they were addressed by the Dean of Cork, and, at the request of Lady Bandon, by Mrs. Powell, of Rathclaren Rectory, Hon. Secretary of the Girls' Friendly Society. Among the visitors present who assisted in the day's proceedings were Lord Carbery, the Ladies Bandon, and Lieut.-Col. Shuldham, D.L., &c. About 300 members of the Society were present.

'A WORD TO THE WISE.'—If Borwick's Baking Powder is not the best in the world, why has it gained five gold medals? This is not a riddle, but a question, which any housewife will answer as follows:—Because it is the best that money can buy. —[Advt.]

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Meeting of the Hertfordshire Association of Change-ringers at Hatfield, Herts.

A MEETING of the above Association was held at Hatfield on Saturday, the 6th inst., and was attended by about twenty-two ringers from Hertford, St. Albans, Hatfield, Hitchin, Sawbridgeworth, and other places. Ringing commenced shortly after three o'clock and the bells were kept going until five o'clock, when an adjournment was made to the 'Coffee Tavern' for tea, and justice having been done to the repast a Business Meeting was the order of the day. The Rev. Canon Wigram presided, and there were present Messrs. Herbert Baker, M. Ellsmore, and J. Gray (Hertford); Messrs. Henry Lewis, E. P. Debenham, R. A. Fowler, G. W. Cartmel, J. C. Mitchell, D. Gibbons, H. Brewer, and J. W. Brewer (St. Albans); Messrs. W. J. Richardson, J. Kentish, H. Rowe, and A. Shepherd (Hatfield); Mr. W. Allen (Hitchin); Mr. P. Springham (Sawbridgeworth); Messrs. H. A. Barnett and G. B. Lucas (Tottenham); and Mr. E. J. Comb (London). The reverend Chairman proposed, and Mr. Baker seconded, that Leonard Proctor, Esq., be requested to act as President of the Association, which was carried unanimously. Mr. E. P. Debenham was elected Honorary Secretary, and Mr. R. A. Fowler Auditor to the Association. It was decided to hold three district meetings in the year on Saturdays, the next being arranged to be at Baldock in October, and the Annual Meeting was fixed for Easter Monday. After the present year the subscriptions will be payable on the day of the annual meeting instead of the 1st of January. The President, Secretary, and Auditor, were instructed to draw up and submit to the next meeting a revised set of rules. During the afternoon and evening touches of Bon Major and GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES were rung on the bells, which were in excellent going order, and Mr. Gray kindly examined the bells previously to see that everything was satisfactory.

The late Mr. G. R. Banks.

MR. BANKS, who died on Monday, the 11th inst., at his residence, Kennington Lane, London, and was sixty-two years of age, was well known as a change-ringer and bell-hanger. He was a member of the Cumberland, St. James', and Waterloo Societies, and was buried at Ilford Cemetery on Saturday, the 16th inst. On the same evening ten members of the St. James' Society started for a peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS, with the bells half muffled, at St. Clement Danes (at which church he had been many years a ringer); but after ringing nearly 2000 changes it came to an end, the tenor going heavily. J. R. Haworth, 1; W. Baron, 2; W. Mansfield, 3; W. Coppage, 4; Jos. Barry, 5; B. French (conductor), 6; W. Weatherstone, 7; G. Wild, 8; A. Hayward, 9; E. Albone, 10. Tenor, 24 cwt.

AT ST. MARY'S, LAMBETH, SURREY.—On Monday, the 18th inst., the following members of the St. James' Society rang, with the bells half muffled, a funeral peal, the usual whole-pull and stand, as a mark of respect to Mr. James Rumsey and Mr. George Banks. G. T. McLaughlin (conductor), 1; S. Davis, 2; W. Tyack, 3; R. Newton, 4; D. Stackwood, 5; T. Coxhead, 6; W. T. Cockerill, 7; W. W. Thorne, 8. Afterwards some GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES were rung, in which Mr. F. Davis and H. Ellis took part. This was also rung on the day of the funeral of the Emperor of Germany.

AT ST. JOHN'S, WATERLOO ROAD, LONDON.—On Wednesday, the 20th inst., a muffled peal, consisting of the usual whole-pull and stand, followed by touches of GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES, was rung as a last mark of respect to the late George Banks, bell-hanger. W. Coppage, 1; C. E. Malim, 2; W. Tyack, 3; W. Partington, 4; F. L. Davies, 5; H. L. Partington, 6; W. W. Thorne, 7; G. Wild, 8.

A Wedding at St. Nicholas', Sevenoaks, Kent.

ON Wednesday, the 6th inst., on the occasion of the marriage of T. Holcroft, Esq., to Miss German, eight members of the James' Society (under the management of Mr. Albone, steeple-keeper of St. Clement Danes, London), were invited to Sevenoaks, where they rang merry peals to celebrate the above wedding. The Rector, the Rev. T. S. Curteis, and others, expressed their approbation with the way in which everything was conducted. Mr. Hills, the sexton, made every suitable arrangement. J. R. Haworth (conductor), 1; H. Flower, 2; H. Langdon, 3; S. Grimble, 4; R. French, 5; E. French, 6; A. Hayward, 7; E. Albone, 8. Tenor, 22 cwt.

The Kent County Association.

THE Annual General Meeting of this Association was held at Ashford on Monday, the 18th inst. At the Committee Meeting twenty-two new members were admitted, raising the total of practising members to 490. A resolution was also passed that peals not forwarded for entry within a month of their performance should not be entitled to be entered. The next District Meetings were fixed at Tenterden in August, and at Addington in October. There was a Choral Service in the parish church at 12, the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, precentor of Canterbury Cathedral, intoning the prayers, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and was listened to with marked attention. W. P. Pomfret, Esq., M.P., presided at the dinner, to which 161 sat down, and the usual business of re-election of officers, &c., was afterwards transacted. The healths of the Vicar of Ashford, coupled with the Ashford Band of Ringers, the Preacher of the day, the Churchwardens, and the Ashford Choir, &c., were proposed and duly honoured. The Rev. F. E. Robinson and L. Proctor, Esq., were elected hon. members of the Association, and Mr. J. W. Washhook a practising member.

North Lincolnshire Association of Church Bell-Ringers.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Association will be held at Grimsby on Saturday next, July 7th, when members of kindred Associations and friends interested in change-ringing are invited to be present. A meat tea will be provided at 1s. 3d. each, to be held immediately after the meeting. The churchwardens have kindly granted the use of the bells at St. James' and St. Andrew's (both beautiful rings of eight). All communications to be addressed to

J. HACKNEY, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*

4 Mill Street, Market Rasen.

The Worcestershire and adjoining Districts Change-ringing Association.

A RINGING MEETING of this Association will take place at Chaddesley Corbett, near Kidderminster, on Saturday, July 14th, 1888, to which all members and friends are invited. The tower will be open at any time during the day for ringing. A meat tea will be provided at 1s. per head at the 'Swan Hotel' for those only who forward their names on or before Tuesday, the 10th, to the Hon. Secretary.

J. SMITH.

37 Sinms Lane, Netherton, Dudley.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.

THE Annual Festival of the above Guild will be held on Monday, July 16th, at Witney. Dinner-tickets may be had on application by members to the Secretary, ensuring railway tickets at reduced fares on G.W.R. These dinner-tickets are free for change-ringing, one shilling per head for probationary, and two shillings per head for hon. members.

Bearwood Rectory, Wokingham.

DOMBEN PAUL, Hon. Sec.

The Surrey Association.

THE Annual Meeting for the election of officers and other business will be held at Bletchingley, by the kind permission of the Rector, on Monday, July 2nd. The towers at Bletchingley (eight bells), and Nutfield (six bells) will be open for ringing during the afternoon and evening.

A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

The Midland Counties' Association.

THE First Quarterly Meeting of the year will be held at Loughborough, on Saturday, July 7th. The towers of All Saints', Loughborough, and St. Bartholomew's, Quorndon, will be open for ringing from 2 p.m.

5 St. Paul's Street East, Burton-on-Trent.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Etheldred's, Hatfield, Herts.

ON Saturday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association attempted Davies' Five-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. After ringing 4000 changes in 2 hrs. 25 mins. the sixth rope broke. H. Rowe, 1; H. Baker (conductor), 2; F. Furr, 3; J. C. Mitchell, 4; G. W. Cartmell, 5; W. H. L. Buckingham, 6; W. Allen, 7; T. Gatherd, 8. Messrs. Mitchell, Buckingham, Cartmell, come from St. Albans; W. Allen, F. Furr, Hitchin; H. Baker, Hertford; Gatherd and Rowe, Hatfield.

At SS. Peter and Paul's, Foxearth, Essex.

ON Thursday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Royal Cumberland Youths and the Essex Association rang a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 2 hrs. 56 mins. S. Slater, 1; J. Lee, 2; W. Gridley, 3; F. Wells, 4; G. Maxim, 5; R. Mingay, 6; P. C. S. Scott, 7; J. Bird, 8. Composed by Mr. J. Reeves and conducted by Mr. Scott.

At the Parish Church, Warnham, Sussex.

ON Thursday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Sussex Association rang a peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 56 mins. J. Garman (first peal), 1; W. Charman, 2; G. Charman, 3; H. H. Chandler, 4; W. Short, 5; F. Knight, 6; T. Andrews (first peal as conductor), 7; G. Woodman, 8. Composed by W. Sottanstell. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At St. Helen's, Abingdon, Berks.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 10 mins. W. Cobb, 1; H. Fruin, 2; C. Trinder, 3; T. Short, 4; F. Field, 5; H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 7; J. L. Washbrook, 8. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson and conducted by Mr. Washbrook. Tenor, 20½ cwt. It was rung with the bells half muffled for the Emperor of Germany, and is the first peal in the method on the bells.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES, LONDON.—On Monday, the 18th inst., a funeral peal, consisting of the usual whole-pull and stand, followed by 468 of GRANDSIRE CATERNS, as a last mark of respect to the late Emperor Frederick. W. Moore, 1; J. R. Haworth (conductor), 2; W. Tyack, 3; W. Weatherstone, 4; H. Langdon, 5; J. Barry, 6; C. F. Winny, 7; R. Hopkins, 8; R. French, 9; E. Albone, 10.

AT ST. PETER'S, ST. ALBANS, HERTS.—On Monday, the 18th inst., eight members of the St. Peter's Society rang 1064 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 50 mins., with the bells half muffled as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Emperor of Germany. W. Little, 1; J. W. Brewer, 2; E. Hull, 3; A. Barnes, 4; E. P. Debenham (conductor), 5; W. H. L. Buckingham, 6; T. Waller, 7; D. Gibbons, 8. Longest touch by Messrs. Little and Brewer, and the longest on a bob bell by Mr. Hull.

On Wednesday, the 20th inst., in honour of the fifty-first anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, a quarter peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES (Tharstan's). H. Lewis, 1; J. C. Mitchell (conductor), 2; A. Barnes, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; E. P. Debenham, 5; G. W. Cartmel, 6; F. Waller, 7; A. Hull, 8.

SNOWDON'S CH. RINGING WORKS. Send for List, 9 Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Vaticanised Churches.

SIR,—I am obliged to Mr. Foxley for his courteous letter. I will allow at once that I went further than I intended by applying the epithet 'wise' to the refusal of the dissentient Bishops to break unity, but I wanted to emphasise my protest against the opposite statement, that by the course they took they necessarily 'acted a lie.'

The dissentient Bishops were acknowledged to be among the wisest and most independent of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and we all accepted that view until they disappointed us by refusing to secede, and I think it wrong that we should judge such men *either way* until we have heard fully their own views on the matter.

I believe it is a law of the Church Catholic that no decision of a Council, even if œcumenical, is binding on the Church until it has received the consensus of Christendom. I do not think that the Vatican Decrees, so strongly protested against by leading men of the Roman Catholic Communion, and so utterly repudiated by the rest of Christendom, have any chance of receiving such consensus; and it is surely possible that such a consideration, or the fact that the Council itself has never been finally closed, may have been considered a justification by the dissentient Bishops for the action which they took.

Until we have heard them we ought not to praise, but surely we have no right to condemn; and my point is, that without thoroughly understanding their position it would be rash for us to urge our Bishops, who have no jurisdiction, to take a course directly opposed to the Bishops of the particular Church on the bare opinion which individuals may have formed on the right or the wrong of the matter.

NELSON.

Ecclesiastical Colours.

SIR,—A question having been raised as to the proper colours, I would take the opportunity of calling attention to the fact that, all through the early periods of the Church, and far down into the middle ages, one traditional custom appears to have been universal as to the colours used for vestments at the altar. These were five in number, and consisted simply and solely of the sacrificial colours ordered under the Mosaic Law, namely, white and gold (or its equivalent, orange—not yellow or maize), blue, scarlet, and purple. No secondary colours were employed, such as green, brown, violet, black, grey, but only the primaries. It has been very difficult to determine the tone of colour intended by 'purple;' and it has been the subject of much controversy. I would protest strongly against the idea of its being what is now commonly called purple, which becomes a 'secondary' tone, an admixture of red with blue, and not a simple colour. The colour ought rather to be what we call crimson, a simple, pure red, having a tendency towards violet, as scarlet has towards yellow or pink, and as indicated, perhaps, by the colour of the juice of the grape. The difference of colour between venous and arterial blood may, perhaps, aptly express what is meant, though in the production of the exact tones very much must depend upon the natural substances available for its manufacture. I have employed this limitation of colour with good effect.

In these days we are met by further difficulties in the discoveries of natural science. Under spectral analysis the primitive colours are primitive no more. Red, yellow, and blue are supplanted by orange, violet, and green; colours which we have been accustomed to call 'secondaries.' We need not, however, trouble ourselves with this. We have to do more with the admixture of pigments than with the refined divisions of a ray of light, discoverable only with the aid of delicate mechanical contrivances. We are concerned more with the humble following of ecclesiastical convention and Christian art than with the teachings of natural philosophy. As to the special application of the several colours to the festivals of the Church, differences likewise have existed. In the absence of direct authority, we shall not go far wrong if we will but follow some rational and recognised principle of appropriateness. No doubt red (scarlet) was appointed for Whitsuntide, as representing the fire of Divine love; and also for the martyrdom of saints, as indicative of their sufferings. In this way purple (crimson)—as still being red and of a more solemn and sombre hue and as contrasting with the scarlet—might be appointed for Lent and Advent, leaving blue for ferial seasons, and white for Easter as being the pure blending of all colours in one.

Our only authority for special colours is a certain amount of traditional use. And this varies very materially from time to time. We have seen the changes it underwent in the Mediæval Church from that which had prevailed in the earlier ages. The use of Sarum will have its claims upon the sympathies of many Churchmen, as being a local authority in the National Church, apart from a rigid restriction to Roman rules in Western Christendom. But surely Primitive customs will have still higher claims upon us than any mere developments of late Mediævalism; when, indeed, we find for the use of these colours the sanction of Divine revelation.

Certain colours are found to have a physical effect upon the nerves, and it is natural, therefore, that they should be associated with some symbolical significance. They may be said to have, further, a moral effect upon human nature. And looking at the fact of the physical effects let us not, like some, depreciate the importance of a proper use of colours, or dismiss it contemptuously as conducing only to a sensuous worship. In this world of sense the effects of cheerfulness or gloom, for instance, may assuredly be greatly enhanced, or otherwise, by the character and tone of colouring presented to the eye, and may become real and operative instead of a mere matter of imaginative or theoretical speculation. This is an additional and most