

ELEVEN Chinese, of whom six were adults, were baptized at Wuchang on Christmas morning last.

THE Shanghai Famine Relief Committee expect to continue their work till June, when the wheat harvest will be gathered. The Shantung missionaries could easily enrol 100,000 starving people, but funds are at present insufficient. Centres for the distribution of relief have been most carefully arranged. The British Consul at Shantung states that 2,000,000 people are starving in the district covered by their committee, and great numbers in other parts of Shantung. The Mansion House Famine Relief Fund, to which about 22,000*l.* has been contributed, will be closed at the end of April. The statements about the fabulous expenditure upon the Emperor of China's wedding have done much harm to the fund. Sir Thomas Wade says that these statements are very exaggerated.

#### INDIA.

THE great progress of the Parsi element in the population of Bombay is well known so far as regards commerce and social culture. Few, however, are aware how far the grosser form of fire-worship, and the notion of Dualism—an evil spirit as well as a good spirit—are now disclaimed by these descendants of the race of Cyrus. They have adopted a catechism, which contains, 'We believe in only one God, and in none beside Him, Who created heaven, earth, angels, stars, sun, moon, fire, water, all four elements, and all things of the two worlds. Whoever believes in any other God is an infidel. Our God has neither face nor form, colour nor shape, nor fixed place. There is no other like Him. He is Himself singly such a glory that we cannot describe Him, nor our mind comprehend Him.'

#### WEST AFRICA.

BISHOP FERGUSON, of the Church in the United States, writing from Cape Palmas, reports that on the last Sunday of December there were twenty-four baptisms—all fresh from heathenism—making the total number won for Christianity at the stations in this part of his jurisdiction during the year ninety-eight, the majority of whom were adults.

### BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

#### The Lancashire Association—Manchester Branch.

A VERY successful meeting of the above branch was held on Saturday, the 16th inst., at Holy Trinity Church, Stretford Road, Manchester. The bells were set going shortly after the appointed hour, and touches in the following methods were rung during the evening:—BOB MINOR, BOB MAJOR, TREBLE BOB MAJOR, GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and STEDMAN TRIPLES. Ringers attended from Ashton-under-Lyne, Whitfield, Worsley, Oldham, Northenden, Northwich, Eccles; and the following Manchester churches were represented:—St. Philip's, Chester Street; St. John's, Deansgate; Holy Trinity, Stretford Road; and the Cathedral. At nine o'clock a meeting was held in the belfry, the chair being occupied by the Rev. H. J. Elsee, who, in a very neat speech, congratulated the members on the progress such meetings as the present one were making for the Association. Five new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Christ Church, Barlow Moor Road, Withington, on Saturday, April 13th. The usual votes of thanks to the Rector, Churchwardens, and Chairman, were passed, and the bells were then rung.

#### The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

ON Tuesday, the 5th inst., ten members of the above Society paid a visit to St. Barnabas', Pimlico, London, for the purpose of inspecting a tablet erected to commemorate the peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS rung by them on Thursday, September 20th, 1888; but upon their arrival the bells were found to be half-muffled, owing to the death, at the age of forty, of Mr. G. Burling, a near resident, so they rang the usual whole-pull and stand, and a well-struck 700 GRANDSIRE CATERS, the band standing as in the peal. W. Baron (conductor), 1; W. Lally, 2; W. Hovard, 3; W. Jones, 4; C. E. Malin, 5; J. W. Mansfield, 6; W. W. Thorne, 7; A. E. Church, 8; H. Swain, 9; G. Chesterman, 10. Also two courses of STEDMAN CATERS and short touches of GRANDSIRE, in which Messrs. Hopkins, Swetman, and Ambrose took part. The tablet was presented by Messrs. Lally and Longhurst, and is of Gothic design, written in gold letters on a black ground, and in character with the fine tower. The manner in which the belfry is kept, and also the 'go' of the bells, give great credit to Mr. Longhurst, the steeple-keeper.

#### CHANGE-RINGING.

##### At the Parish Church, Tamworth, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 7th inst., eight members of the local branch of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 2 mins. J. Windridge, 1; J. W. Timms (first peal as conductor), 2; A. Everitt, 3; R. P. Brindley (first peal with inside bell), 4; J. Wainwright, 5; C. Chapman, 6; G. Woods, 7; W. Chapman, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt. [\* First peal.] This peal was rung to celebrate the laying of the foundation-stone of the new municipal buildings, which are being built as a Jubilee memorial.

ON Tuesday, the 13th inst., a date touch of 1889 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 8 mins. J. Windridge, 1; R. P. Brindley, 2; A. Everitt, 3; J. W. Timms, 4; J. Wainwright, 5; G. Woods (conductor), 6; C. Chapman, 7; G. Tomlinson (first touch), 8.

##### At St. Albans, Herts.

ON Tuesday, the 12th inst., four members of the St. Peter's Society rang, on handbells retained in hand, a peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 28 mins.

A. Barnes, 1-2; E. P. Debenham, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6; T. Waller, 7-8. Umpire, Mr. W. Little. The above ringers also belong to the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Hertfordshire Association.

##### At the Parish Church, Hull, Yorkshire.

ON Thursday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB in 3 hrs. 11 mins. F. Merrison, 1; J. Pollard, 2; J. Dixey, 3; W. Southwick, 4; H. Jenkins, 5; T. Stockdale, 6; R. Chaffer, 7; C. Jackson (conductor), 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. This peal has the 4th and 6th their extent in 5-6, and is one of the 112 variations of Mr. C. H. Hattersley's Fourteen-Course Peal, in which the 5th and 6th are their extent in 5-6. It was rung with the bells muffled as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. C. Bennett, who died on March 12th, 1889.

##### At All Saints', Maidenhead, Berks.

ON Friday, the 15th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 40 mins. H. Rogers, 1; J. W. Wilkins, 2; A. Hoskins, 3; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 4; S. Quintin, 5; E. Rogers, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; R. Smith, 8. Tenor, 17½ cwt. First peal of STEDMAN by all except the Rev. F. E. Robinson and Mr. Washbrook.

##### At St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 6048 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 51 mins. J. Harrison, 1; J. Shepherd, 2; J. B. Taylor, 3; G. Hoyle, 4; G. E. Turner, 5; G. E. W. Wreaks, 6; J. Millett, 7; F. Birtwistle, 8. Composed by Mr. J. Thorp, and conducted by Mr. Wreaks. Tenor, 14 cwt. This is the first peal in any method on the bells, which were opened on December 20th, 1888, and the first peal in the method by Messrs. Shepherd and Taylor. The above ringers wish to tender their thanks to the Vicar for his kindness in granting them the use of the bells.

##### At Christ Church, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. J. Cooper, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; J. R. Frisby, 3; T. Horton, 4; R. Hall, 5; J. Hall, 6; C. Timms, 7; J. Harbord, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

##### At St Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., twelve members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5018 STEDMAN CINQUES in 3 hrs. 37 mins. J. Rogers (composer, and first attempt at STEDMAN as conductor), 1; H. Dains, 2; W. Baron, 3; A. Jacob, 4; C. E. Malin, 5; T. Titchener, 6; J. Hannington, 7; W. Partington, 8; H. Swain, 9; G. Wilde, 10; G. Newson, 11; H. Hopkins, 12. Tenor, 34 cwt. The above peal has the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th bells in full Titum position, regularly coursing each other throughout, and is the first peal of CINQUES in any method on this plan ever rung. [\* First peal of STEDMAN CINQUES.]

AT ST. MARY-LE-PORT, BRISTOL.—ON Sunday, the 24th ult., 704 TREBLE BOB MAJOR. C. H. Gordon, 1; C. Trivett, 2; G. H. Colston, 3; C. Burden, 4; F. Elles, 5; F. Price, 6; W. Emery, 7; J. Hinton (conductor), 8. Also 672 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES. C. H. Gordon, 1; J. Hinton, 2; G. H. Colston, 3; C. H. Burden, 4; F. W. Elles, 5; F. Price, 6; W. Colston, 8. The bells were rung muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. W. Northcott, who died on February 18th, aged fifty-two years.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, MIDHURST, SUSSEX.—ON Sunday, the 24th ult., for Divine service, 720 KENT TREBLE BOB were rung by the following members of the Sussex County Association. T. Ellis, 1; W. Court, 2; G. Batts, 3; J. Lee, 4; W. Selby 5; G. Williams, 6. And on Sunday, the 3rd inst., for Divine service, 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB in 22½ mins. T. Ellis, 1; W. Court, 2; C. Tribe, 3; W. Selby, 4; G. Williams, 5; G. Batts, 6. And in the evening 720 OXFORD SINGLE BOB in 23 mins. J. Lee in place of W. Court. All conducted by G. Williams. Also, on handbells, at the house of Mr. Selby, on the 28th ult., 720 BOB MINOR (non-conducted). Dr. W. H. George, 1-2; G. Williams, 3-4; Mrs. G. Williams, 5-6. Referee, Mr. W. Selby.

AT ST. PAUL'S, WALKDEN, LANCASHIRE.—ON Sunday, the 24th ult., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR were rung in 23½ mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; A. Potter, 4; J. Potter, 5; J. Brookes, 6. Also on Sunday evening, the 3rd inst., 720 BOB MINOR were rung in 24 mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; A. Potter, 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Potter, 5; J. Brookes, 6. Tenor, 18½ cwt.

AT SS. PETER AND PAUL'S, LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—ON Tuesday, the 26th ult., the following persons rang a touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR on the middle six of the ring of eight, the fine tenor bell being unringable; but we are glad to hear that it will shortly be put in proper going order by a competent bell-hanger. C. Sillitoe (conductor, Sudbury), 1; W. Hollocks (Preston), 2; G. Brown (Sudbury), 3; H. Smith (Lavenham), 4; W. Green (Monks Eleigh), 5; A. Symonds (Lavenham), 6.

AT STOW ST. MARY, LINCOLNSHIRE.—ON Saturday, the 2nd inst., a company of the North Lincolnshire Association from Gainsborough rang 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR in 25½ mins. W. W. Bast, 1; W. D. Tinker (conductor), 2; F. F. Linley, Esq., 3; W. Pattison, 4; C. Brewin, 5; F. W. Atkinson, 6. Tenor, 10½ cwt. This is the first peal on the bells. The bells have recently been augmented to six, and are an excellent ring.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, DALLINGTON, SUSSEX.—Recently, by the local company, two peals of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. J. Booth, 1; E. Lovell, 2; J. Jones, 3; P. J. Peters (conductor), 4; J. Gadd, 5. Tenor, 14½ cwt. [\* First 720; also the first on the bells.]