

church at this place is shown by the fact that about 250,000 people pass every year through the Suez Canal, all of whom stop for a time at Port Said, and that nine-tenths of this number are British, the greater part of whom are, of course, seafaring folk. A hospital in connexion with the church has also been erected at a cost of 5000*l.*, and an income of 2000*l.* a-year has been secured for us by the payments of owners of ships. There is, we believe, no more important chaplaincy between England and India than that at Port Said.

ITALY.

A DASTARDLY outrage was perpetrated at the Church of San Carlo, Rome, on Sunday morning, the 31st March. While the famous Father Agostino was preaching, a bomb was thrown from behind the high altar into the body of the church and burst, causing an indescribable panic in the dense congregation. The *Carabinieri* were instantly on the spot and formed a circle round the altar. Several arrests were made. There was, of course, a general rush for the doors, and many in their efforts to escape fell down and were injured. Father Agostino left off preaching for a few moments, but then resumed his discourse and finished his sermon with the greatest calmness.

CARDIFF CHURCH CONGRESS.

THE following is the final selection of subjects approved at the fifth meeting of the Subjects Committee lately held at the Town Hall, Cardiff, the Bishop of Llandaff presiding over a large attendance of members:—

THE CHURCH'S CARE OF CHILDREN.

- (a) Waifs and Strays.
- (b) In Workhouses and Factories.
- (c) Boys who have left School.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

CHURCH FINANCE AND CLERGY PENSIONS.

THE CHURCH'S MODE OF DEALING WITH RAPIDLY-GROWING POPULATIONS.

- (a) The Division of Parishes: Is it a gain or not?
- (b) The Use of Mission Rooms and Lay Co-operation.
- (c) The Use of Special Services in Church.
- (d) Community Life for the Clergy—how far practicable or advisable?

CHURCH IN WALES.—Its Past Progress. Its Present Needs.

- (a) Increase of the Episcopate.
- (b) Parochial Missions.
- (c) Training of the Clergy.

LINGUISTIC CONDITION OF WALES.—Its Bearing upon Church Work and Education and the Difficulties arising from it.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

- (a) Voluntary Schools, with reference to—(1), Free Education; (2), The New Code; (3), Moral and Religious Training.
- (b) Organization of Definite Religious Teaching in School Board Districts.

CONTINUATION SCHOOLS AND INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION.

THE CHURCH'S DUTY TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

- (a) Better Housing.
- (b) Thrift.
- (c) Recreation.
- (d) Sweating System.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

CHURCH AND STATE.

- (a) Incidents of Establishment in 1689 and 1889.
- (b) Establishment, in its Relation to—(1), Religious Equality; (2), Spiritual Independence.

THE MINISTRY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

- (a) The Witness of the Holy Scripture.
- (b) The Witness of History.
- (c) Orders in the Church of England.

LITERATURE OF THE DAY AND ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY.

- (a) In Connexion with Modern Philosophic Thought.
- (b) With Reference to Alleged Scepticism among the Working Classes.
- (c) In the Treatment of Religious Questions by Means of the Novel.

HOW TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF YOUNG MEN.

POPULAR AMUSEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- (a) Generally.
- (b) As Associated with Gambling and Betting.

HOME REUNION.

MISSIONS.—The Reciprocal Relationship between the Church at Home and its Foreign and Colonial Missions.

SUBJECT SELECTED FOR THE DEVOTIONAL MEETING.—The Christian's Relationship—

- (a) To God.
- (b) To the Church.
- (c) To the World.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Surrey Association.

THE next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Camberwell, by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Easter Monday, April 22nd. Tower open from three to five p.m. Service at five. Tea at the Surrey Masonic Hall at six p.m., followed by business meeting. All those who wish to have tea must please send word to the Manager, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, not later than Friday, April 19th. Tower open again after meeting. The tea will be free to all those members who have paid their subscriptions, and who send notice of their intention to be present, as requested. All others will be charged 1*s.* 6*d.* a-head.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

The Waltham Abbey Society.

THE second Annual Ringing Festival of the above Society will be held on Easter Monday next. The steeple will be open to visitors for ringing from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Dinner will be provided at the 'Green Dragon' Inn, Market Place, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets, 2*s.* 6*d.* each. All visitors whose intention it is to dine with the company are particularly requested to notify the same not later than Tuesday, April 16th, to

'Green Dragon' Inn, Waltham Abbey. WALTER C. DYMCK, *Secretary.*

The Lancashire Association of Change-ringers,—Manchester Branch.

THE usual Monthly Meeting of this Branch will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at Christ Church, Barlow Moor Road, Withington. Ringing to commence at four o'clock. Meeting in the belfry at seven o'clock.

3 Hayden Street, Queen's Road, Manchester. JOHN EACHUS, *Branch Sec.*

The Bedfordshire Association.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held at Bedford on Easter Monday next.

CHARLES HERBERT, } *Hon. Secretaries.*
W. W. C. BAKER, }

North Lincolnshire Association.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 27th. Further particulars will appear in next week's issue. 15 Knight Street, Lincoln. JOHN W. WATSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

St. Martin's Guild of Change-ringers for Birmingham, Aston, and the surrounding District.

THE first Quarterly Meeting of this Guild was held at St. Martin's Mission Rooms, Birmingham, on Friday, the 29th ult., at eight o'clock, under the chairmanship of W. Jones, Esq., one of the Guild's vice-presidents and churchwarden of St. Martin's. The honorary secretary, Mr. W. H. Godden, having reported on the financial position of the Guild and the various measures under consideration by its officers, an application by a local band of ringers for incorporation with the Guild was considered and the terms of admission arranged. Various resolutions relative to the development of the science in the neighbourhood, and the arrangement of social gatherings for the purpose of fostering mutual good feeling were then discussed and decided upon, and the Secretary was instructed to have the following circular printed and distributed among the neighbouring clergymen and gentlemen interested in Change-ringing:—'This Guild, having in view the desirability of developing scientific change-ringing as an adjunct to the services of the Church, and with a desire to improve the status of ringers in this neighbourhood, and especially in the county of Warwick, solicits the co-operation and correspondence of fellow-ringers and any clergymen and gentlemen interested in the science. On receipt of applications addressed to the Secretary, either for incorporation with the Guild, for instruction, or for advice on the subject of bells and ringing, the Guild will at once depute one or more of its members to attend to the same.'

The meeting, after having passed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, then broke up.

The Hertfordshire Association.

THE Annual Meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, April 22nd. The towers of the Cathedral and St. Peter's will be open for ringing in the morning from 9.30 until 12.30; and in the afternoon from 3.30. At 12.45 there will be service in the Lady Chapel in the Cathedral, with an address by the Venerable Archdeacon Lawrance. Dinner will be provided at the 'Peahen' Hotel at 1.30 (the charge to members being 1*s.* 9*d.* a-head); after which the business meeting will be held for the election of officers for the ensuing year and general business. The chair will be taken by the President, Leonard Proctor, Esq. Cheap tickets will be issued from London by certain trains on the Great Northern and Midland lines, irrespective of membership. Further particulars I shall be happy to supply; and it is hoped that many friends in the metropolis will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the ancient city. The usual facilities will be afforded to members travelling on the Great Northern Railway.

In order that proper arrangements may be made, I shall be glad to receive, not later than Wednesday, the 17th, the names of those who intend to be present at the dinner. Members are reminded that, when applying for the cheap tickets, it is necessary to produce at the provincial booking-offices their receipts for the current subscription; and I have to add that Easter Monday is 'pay-day.' To avoid confusion I would ask members and friends arriving during the hours of ringing to make for St. Peter's in the first instance.

E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

St. Albans.

The late Mr. Harry Pearce.

It is with regret we have this week to announce the sudden death of Mr. Pearce, which took place on Wednesday, March 27th, of heart disease, at the residence of his parents, Perryfields, Maidstone, at the early age of twenty-six years. He went to his work on Monday, apparently in good health, but at noon he was seized with a fit. Medical aid was called and he was conveyed home. On Tuesday he appeared much better, and all thought he would resume his employment in a day or two; but on Wednesday morning, on getting out of bed, he suddenly fell backwards and expired. On Sunday, the day of his funeral, sixty ringers were present to pay a last tribute of respect to their deceased brother. His remains were borne to the grave by ringing friends, and the funeral service was read by the Rev. S. Cartwright, curate of All Saints'. Wreaths and flowers were numerous, among others being one each from the members of All Saints' and St. Michael's. Messrs. Winny and Newman of the College Youths were present, of which Society deceased was a member. Mr. Pearce was also a member of All Saints' and St. Michael's, Maidstone, Sittingbourne, Staplehurst, Malling, Leeds, Aylesford, Birchington, Barming, and Linton Societies. By his death the Kent County Association, and All Saints' Company in particular, lose a good ringer. He had rung nearly fifty peals, including GRANDSIRE CATERS and TRIPLES, BOB MAJOR and TRIPLES; and he could also ring KENT TREBLE BOB and SPEDMAN. As a conductor he was a safe bob-caller, having called Taylor's Bob-and-Single variation at the age of nineteen, also Holt's Original several times; and he had been instructor to several bands. On Monday evening the bells were rung muffled at St. Michael's, Leeds, and Aylesford. At the latter place 559 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. J. Cosson (Aylesford), 1; T. Durban (Aylesford), 2; R. Simmonds, 3; T. Manning, 4; G. Pawley, 5; A. Moorcraft (conductor), 6; A. H. Woolley, 7; G. Moorcraft, 8.

THE LATE MR. JAMES SCALES.—On Tuesday, the 26th ult., in the parish churchyard, Baldock, Herts, were performed the last offices due to the mortal remains of Mr. Scales—the oldest member of the Baldock Society, he having been a member for upwards of sixty years—who departed this life on the 22nd ult., at the age of eighty-four. The deceased was a great lover of bells and ringing, although not a scientific change-ringer, as change-ringing was quite unknown in Baldock until about four years ago, when he was too far advanced in life to commence to study the intricacies of the art. He had taken part in ringing out the old and ringing in the new year for fifty-seven years, the last time he ascended the tower for that purpose being on the eve of the new year of 1887. In the evening, after the funeral, the members of the Baldock company rang several touches, with the bells deeply muffled, as a last token of their regard.

A Half-muffled Peal at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn Viaduct, City of London.

ON Sunday, the 7th inst., on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Parish Schools, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London paid the annual visit to the above church, when the fine ring of ten bells (tenor, 81 cwt. 14 lbs.) were rung as usual; but in the evening, before and after Divine service (by order of the churchwardens, Messrs. Herbert, Lister, and Howell), the bells were rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Her Royal Highness the late Duchess of Cambridge (who died on the 6th inst.), by the parochial ringers: Lovett (steeple-keeper), Nelms, Haworth, Barry, Church, Davies, Moore, Clarkson, Matthews, and Wheeler.

A Long Peal at St. Mary's, Cheltenham.

ON Easter Monday, ten members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association hope to attempt a long peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS at the above church, starting at twelve noon.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Lawrence's, Appleton, Berks.

ON Friday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. H. Tubbe, 1; W. Bennett, 2; C. Hounslow, 3; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 4; J. Avery, 5; G. Holfield, 6; F. White, 7; J. W. Washbrook (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

ON Thursday, the 28th ult., ten members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5000 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 20 mins. J. Gratrix, 1; Jos. Turner, 2; W. Jakeman, 3; J. Wood, 4; T. G. Downes, 5; J. Barratt, 6; H. Chapman, 7; E. Bishop, 8; S. Wood (composer), 9; J. Eachus (conductor), 10. Tenor, 25 cwt. The above was rung as a farewell peal to Mr. Bishop, who is leaving Lancashire to reside in Wiltshire.

At Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

ON Monday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thurstan's peal of 5040 SPEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 16 mins. J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 1; C. Tolley, 2; W. C. Barton, 3; S. Hounslow, 4; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 5; J. Howes, 6; W. Finch, 7; W. Jeffery, 8. Tenor, about 26 cwt. The above peal was rung on the middle eight, owing to the tenor clapper being out.

At St. Peter's, St. Albans, Herts.

ON Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the St. Peter's Society and Hertfordshire Association rang Taylor's Bob-and-Single Variation peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 3 mins. W. Little (first peal), 1; H. Brewer (first peal with bob-bell), 2; T. Waller, 3; J. W. Brewer, 4; E. P. Debenham (conductor), 5; W. H. L. Buckingham, 6; G. W. Cartmel (fiftieth peal), 7; A. Hull, 8.

RECEIVED ALSO.—Hereford Diocesan Guild (thanks—next week); E. P. Debenham (what you want will be done); and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Newly Confirmed.

SIR,—As I believe the usual time for holding confirmations is now at hand, may I offer a suggestion with the view of helping those confirmed to become communicants? It is this: that for every person being prepared for confirmation, some older communicant should be found to undertake to accompany them to the Holy Communion for the first time; such communicants to be, as far as possible, of the same social position as the candidates for confirmation, or personal friends. I think it is certainly true that many of the poorer class, or servants living away from home, stay away from the Holy Communion from a feeling of shyness, and because (as they would say), 'They don't know what they have to do.' Perhaps this suggestion would be difficult to carry out fully in towns, but it would be more easy in country parishes. Being a layman, I write with some diffidence on such a subject, but I venture to do so as a case in point has recently come to my notice. The idea seems to me both pleasing and practical, viz., that those confirmed should be specially trusted to a friend to encourage them in taking the next great step in their spiritual life, which is, I fear, too often altogether neglected.

J. E. ACLAND-TROTTE.

Reunion.

SIR,—Since I wrote my last paper on this subject the second edition of Mr. Hutton's *Essays*, of which I had before only seen the first, has come into my hands. It contains a passage which, as coming from one who was a devoted admirer of Maurice, and at one time a Unitarian, has its own peculiar significance, and so exactly coincides with what I was trying to say that I am tempted to transcribe it. Let it be distinctly understood by those who have not read that preface that it contains strong words against the Roman position, but it also has these strong words in its favour:—

'I have none of the horror of Romanism, as we now know it in England, which some Protestants think it a kind of historic duty to feel, though I believe that the sacerdotal principle, which is at its highest point of power in Rome, has, on the whole, been a very mischievous and even fatal one. Indeed, I am certain that the intellectual dependence and confidence which the Roman Church gives to nine-tenths of her children, however much it may paralyse the genius and the intellectual activity of the few, offers to the meditative piety and spiritual affections of the many just that guarantee of serenity without which these affections seldom or never attain their highest proportions. I doubt if there be in any Church in the world, in proportion to the number of its adherents, so much true devotion and piety, so much genuine religious ardour and self-sacrifice, and, more than all, that best of all tests of the substantial truth of religion, so much true blessedness in the devotional life, as there is inside the Roman Catholic Church.' (*Essays, Theological and Literary*, by R. H. Hutton. Vol. I. Preface, p. ix. Second edition, 1876.)

Mr. Hutton at once goes on to say that it does not at all follow that the assumptions, on which this dependence is based, are true assumptions; and I would not of course quote what seem to me the generous and true words of a fair though by no means altogether friendly critic without calling attention to those other words by which they are modified. But there they are, and a thorough-going Reunionist may be thankful for them. There is no attempt here to insinuate Roman teaching into our Church, or to 'twist the conscience,' both of which I think would be simply dishonest; but there is the simple determination to be just and generous, and thus to break down the unnecessary but formidable barrier of prejudice. I have taken up far too much of your space lately, and must apologise for doing so.

Moreton-in-Marsh.

SPENCER JONES.

Parish Registers.

SIR,—I was very glad to see that you have taken up the subject of Parish Registers, about which there was so much correspondence recently in the *Times* and other papers. It is one in which I have long taken interest, and a good many years ago sent a petition to Parliament upon it, of which the following is a copy:—

'The humble Petition of the under-signed Vicar of Nafferton, in the East Riding of the County of York:—

'Sheweth: That many of the more ancient of the several Parish Registers of England are going fast to decay or becoming illegible through damp.

'That they are of the utmost value legally and otherwise to all the families in the kingdom.

'That your Petitioner has held cures in the dioceses of York, Chester, and Lincoln; and having been at first unaware, in common, he believes, with many of the clergy, in the absence of any instructions on the subject, that copies of the Parish Registers should be sent in periodically to the Diocesan Registries, neglected until recently to do so in any of the above cases; and that on applying at the Register Office in York to learn how many years of his present Parish Registers required being copied, found that the officials there could give him no information whatever on the subject, and referred him to the archives themselves, which appeared to be in a state of utter neglect and almost hopeless confusion.

'That your Petitioner, therefore, humbly requests that all copies of Parish Registers and the old Registers themselves be transferred to the custody of the Registrar-General, to be by him preserved, classified, and copied, as may be required.

It was presented by the late Lord Hotham, our then Member for the East Riding, and he wrote to me, with much agreeable surprise, that it was considered of sufficient importance to be printed by order of the House.

The subject having been brought up again by you in the way it was, I wrote to the Registrar General on a point connected with it, and the tenor of the correspondence which ensued is shown by what I have added below:—