

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE Easter Vestries are now being held throughout the Church. At these the parochial accounts are submitted, and churchwardens and select vestries elected for the ensuing year. An attempt was made to get up an anti-Ritualistic cry, but I believe nothing came of it. With our canons and our Church courts, he would be a bold man who would dream of a cross on the Communion Table, or the Eastward Position, or an eucharistic vestment, not to speak of still more heinous offences. Notwithstanding these enactments however, there is a small clique in Dublin who still think they see 'the narrow end of the wedge,' but they do not apparently mark the growth of a strong rationalistic temper among some of the evangelical clergy, which would deal with portions of the Old Testament in a highly critical mood. Strange to say, some of those who think they see Romanised tendencies in some recent utterances on the subject of the Eucharist, are themselves charged with doctrinal looseness of language on the same subject. The ensuing meeting of the General Synod will prove whether the anti-Ritualistic blast will come to any thing. There is certainly no excitement such as the death of the late Canon Portal recalls to mind, when Irish Churchfolk went off their heads on account of *Portal's Manual*, a twopenny tract handed by a Dublin curate to a servant girl, which brought about the revision of the Prayer-book, and lost thousands of pounds to the sustentation of the Church. The probability is that now such a little book as these 'short prayers for those who have little time to pray,' might be circulated without any attention being drawn to it. But it was in vain that at the time the late Archbishop, Dr. Trench, pointed out that there was no teaching in it that was not allowed by the Prayer-book, and certainly the revision of the Prayer-book left things as they were as far as the teaching of the *Manual* went. The Canon has departed this life, but he must often have wondered at the excitement his little book caused on this side of the Channel. His name became better known throughout the length and breadth of the Church than those of her most famous and popular divines. To condemn the *Manual* and denounce 'Ritualism' became the sure passport to popularity and rapid promotion in the Church. No clergyman had a chance who took a sober view of the crisis, and deprecated the excitement. Now, however, a wonderful change has come about, and moderate Churchmen find there is an increasing demand for their services.

The General Synod meets on Tuesday next in the Synod Hall, Christ Church Place. There will be previously a celebration of the Holy Communion in the two cathedrals on Monday evening at eight p.m. There will be an opening service in St. Patrick's National Cathedral, when the sermon will be preached in the presence of the members of the Synod by the Rev. George Salmon, D.D., Provost of Trinity College. His lamented predecessor, the late Provost Jellett, was to have preached the opening sermon on a similar occasion this time last year, but death cut him short. Under these sad circumstances an able and eloquent sermon was preached by Dr. Pakenham Walsh, bishop of Ossory.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., the Rev. Wellesley Leet, D.D., incumbent of Bagginbally, was installed Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in the place of the late Rev. Dr. Ryder. The ceremony was conducted by the Very Rev. the Dean of the Cathedral at the evening service. His Grace the Archbishop and the following members of the chapter were present:—The Rev. Dr. Marrable, treasurer; and Canons Hamilton, D.D.; Morgan Jellett, D.D.; and Henry Hogan, B.D. Evening prayers were intoned by the Rev. J. H. Miles, M.A., residentiary canon, and the lessons were read by the Rev. Dr. Marrable and the Rev. Dr. Hamilton. The Archbishop was attended by his chaplain the Rev. R. Deane Oliver.

I have to announce the death of the Rev. Canon Albert I. MacDonogh, D.D., LL.D., which occurred rather unexpectedly in his rooms in Trinity College, last Saturday week. The *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says of the deceased:—

'He was Prebendary of Monmohenock in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Incumbent of Chapelizod, co. Dublin, and was also Catechetical Lecturer and Examiner in the Theological School of Trinity College. He had been in delicate health for some time previously. Dr. MacDonogh obtained a scholarship at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1857. His collegiate career was a very distinguished one. In 1858 he won the first prize in ecclesiastical history and second in Biblical Greek, together with the Regius Professor of Divinity Prize, entitling him to the Divinity Testimonial. He was ordained for the curacy of Sillorgan in 1858, and in 1860 he removed to the curacy of St. Luke's, Dublin. He subsequently held the curacy of St. Jude's, Inchicore. In 1871 he was appointed to the Incumbency of Chapelizod. The patronage of the canonry in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, is in the hands of the Dean and Chapter, who may appoint any clergyman they please. Several names are mentioned, among others, that of the Rev. Charles Ovenden, B.D., rector of Enniskillen, who during the time of his suitorship took so deep an interest in the welfare of the Cathedral.'

There are now three parishes vacant in the diocese of Dublin, namely, Malahide with Portmarnock, Coolock, and Chapelizod. The income of each is 216*l.* a-year, and the first and second mentioned parishes have glebe houses,

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A Narrow Escape in a Belfry.

THE parish church of Cowden, Kent, was seriously damaged by lightning on Tuesday evening, the 9th inst. The spire was struck, and the shock, passing downwards, carried away a large portion of the steeple on the west side and a corner on the east side. The roofing shingles were scattered all over the village. Two gentlemen, examining the bells at the time, had a narrow escape.

A Rededication at St. Peter's, Dorchester, Dorset.

THESE bells were rededicated to the service of Almighty God, on Friday, the 12th inst., by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Dorset, the service according to the special form now in use in the diocese being used at 12.15 p.m. After the blessing had been given, a company of the Selling's Honorary Ringing Guild, of Bridport, rang a short trial peal of rounds; after which, and during the afternoon, they rang several touches, including Queen's, Tittums, &c. The splendid manner in which these bells are rung was evinced by the ease with which they were rung, the 'go' and striking of the bells leaving nothing to be desired. The whole of the work, which included entirely rehanging in cast-iron frame on stout wood beams, with all new fittings, together with the recasting of the three cracked bells, was entrusted to Messrs. Warner & Sons, Cripplegate, London, who, through their foreman, Mr. G. Dunn, have carried out the work in a highly satisfactory manner. The ringers, during the day, were most hospitably entertained at the residence of the parish churchwarden, Mr. M. Lock. The toast of the day, 'The Rector and Churchwardens of St. Peter's,' was suitably proposed by Mr. W. B. Northover, Hon. Sec. of the Bridport Guild, it being gracefully acknowledged by the Rector, the Rev. T. R. Allen, and Mr. Lock. The bells have been fitted with Warner's* patent chiming apparatus.

[* Should this not be 'Ellacombe's'?—Ed. C. B.]

The North Middlesex Association.

THE Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held at Edgware on Friday, the 12th inst., which was highly successful, owing to the excellent arrangements made by Mr. Nuskins. Upwards of thirty members and friends attended. Several peals of GRANDSIRE and BOB DOUBLES were rung, in which the local company took part. A 720 of BOB MINOR was attempted, but was lost owing to the bad 'go' of the bells. These bells having been hung 120 years, and apparently without any substantial repairs during that time, it is hoped that the authorities will soon be able to put them in good ringing order again. A business meeting was afterwards held, presided over by Mr. T. Card, Master for the ensuing year. Five ringing and two honorary members were elected, and it was proposed to hold the next quarterly meeting, if possible, at Barnet, in July, of which further particulars will be announced. Various propositions relating to the advancement of the art in the district were made, and finally a committee was appointed to draw up a circular, setting forth the objects of the Association, to be distributed amongst the clergy and gentlemen interested in Church work. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Master for his services as instructor to the Edgware Branch, and to the Rector for the use of the bells.

The Hertfordshire Association of Change-ringers.

ON Easter Monday the above Association met upon their annual gathering at the Cathedral City of St. Albans, about sixty members being present. Mr. Debenham, the secretary, with all good friends, gave them a most hearty welcome. The bells of St. Peter's were rung upon by the Benington Society of Change-ringers, and excellent touches of STEDMAN TRIPLES, DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, and SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR were rung and brought home with musical order, 1036 changes in extent. At St. Ethelburga's, Hatfield, the fine ring of eight bells was rung upon by the Benington Society of Change-ringers, completing 1428 musical changes in the several methods of STEDMAN TRIPLES, DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, making a total of 2464 changes rung at St. Albans and Hatfield. They arrived home at nine o'clock, much delighted with their happy day's ringing.

[A report of the meeting will appear next week.—Ed.]

The Lancashire Association.

THE Quarterly Meeting will be held on Easter Saturday, April 27th, at St. Peter's Church, Swinton, near Manchester. Ringing from 2 p.m. Meeting in the schools at 6 p.m.

JOEL REDFORD, A. E. WREAKS, Hon. Secretaries.

A Muffled Peal by the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

ON Friday evening, the 12th inst., the bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, were rung half-muffled as a mark of respect to the memory of H.R.H. the late Duchess of Cambridge, who was for many years a resident in the royal parish. This half-muffled peal also commemorated the decease of the late Mr. R. Richardson, who was for upwards of sixty years a member of this Society. It will undoubtedly interest our readers to know that this church has just been fitted throughout with electric light, and the belfry is thus illuminated upon each occasion of practice-ringing, and this is the first muffled peal rung here under such conditions.

A Muffled Peal at Raunds, Northamptonshire.

ON Saturday, the 13th inst., on the day of the funeral of the late Duchess of Cambridge, the Raunds Ringers rang a muffled peal to her memory.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Holy Trinity, Long Melford, Suffolk.

On Wednesday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Essex Association rang a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 8 mins. N. J. Pitstow (composer and conductor), 1; G. Maxim, 2; S. Slater, 3; A. Symonds, 4; H. Duce, 5; H. Smith, 6; P. C. S. Scott, 7; O. Garwood, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F. This peal, which is now rung for the first time, contains the 4th, 5th, and 6th each twelve times in 6th's place without the 2nd ever dodging with the tenor in 7-8. The peal is in three equal parts, and has a bob at home at every course-end.

At the Parish Church, Feckenham, Worcestershire.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Worcester and Adjoining Districts' Association rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 3 mins. G. Handy, * 1; W. Rea (conductor), 2; G. Hayward, 3; W. James, 4; J. Mason (first peal of TRIPLES), 5; A. Moore, 6; O. James, 7; W. Baylis, * 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt. Messrs. Hayward, Rea, and Brothers James, came from Bromsgrove; Moore, Hanbury; Mason, Stoke Prior; the others, the local company. [* First peal in any method.]

At Christ Church, West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., ten members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a peal of 5021 GRANDSIRE CATER in 3 hrs. 13 mins. H. Hipkiss, 1; T. Horton, 2; J. R. Frisby, 3; W. R. Small, 4; S. Reeves, 5; J. Hall, 6; C. Timms, 7; R. Hall, 8; C. Price, 9; W. C. Hall, 10. Composed by Mr. J. Carter, and conducted by Mr. Reeves. Tenor, 23 cwt. W. C. Hall came from Stafford; the rest belong to West Bromwich. This peal has the 6th twenty-four times wrong and right, and the 5th twelve times right.

At the Parish Church, Eye, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 5 mins. W. Motts, 1; G. Day, * 2; I. S. Alexander, 3; W. P. Garrett, 4; F. Day, * 5; G. Murton, * 6; J. Motts (conductor), 7; W. Bumpstead, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. Messrs. J. and W. Motts, Alexander, and Garrett, are members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich; the rest belong to the local Society. The above is the first peal in the method on the bells. [* First peal of STEDMAN.]

At St. NICHOLAS', GUILDFORD, SURREY.—On Thursday, the 28th ult., on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Guildford, the following members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang the first half (2520 changes) of Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 34 mins.:—C. W. Miller, 1; T. H. Colburn, 2; T. Heathorn, 3; E. W. T. Rees, 4; J. J. Jones, 5; F. Bennett (conductor), 6; W. Grove, 7; E. Stone, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt. This is the first half-peal rung in Guildford by a local branch for many years.

At THE PARISH CHURCH, RAWENTHALL, LANCASHIRE.—Recently, for Divine service, 168 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Harling, 1; J. Ramsbottom, 2; W. Haworth, 3; E. Whittaker, 4; E. Nuttall, 5; J. Smith, 6; J. Rollerson, 7; F. Nowell, 8. And another touch with W. Jemmison, 8. The above is the first attempt by all the band. Tenor, 14 cwt., in F.

At THE PARISH CHURCH, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.—On Saturday, the 6th inst., the St. Michael's Society, assisted by Messrs. Lindoff and Haigh, from Gillingham, rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Mann, 1; E. Price, 2; Rev. E. W. Carpenter, 3; G. Lindoff, 4; W. Haigh, 5; C. Willshire, 6; S. Snelling (conductor), 7; J. Jordan, 8. Rung with the bells half muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. H. Pearce, of Maidstone.

At THE PARISH CHURCH, FOXEARTH, ESSEX.—On Saturday, the 6th inst., a peal of 5184 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was to have been attempted, but meeting one short, the following rang on the back six an eighteen-score of Mr. Carter's new method (FORWARD MINOR), this being the first attempt by all the band. S. Slater, 1; C. Sillitoe, 2; W. Gridley, 3; R. Mingay, 4; J. Lee, 5; G. Maxim (conductor), 6. Also some touches of FORWARD MAJOR were afterwards rung on the handbells. And on Sunday, the 7th inst., for morning service, 720 BOB MINOR. G. Maxim, sen., 1; J. Lee, 2; C. Sillitoe, 3; R. Mingay, 4; W. Gridley, 5; G. Maxim, jun. (conductor), 6. Also 300 BOB MINOR. G. Maxim, sen., 1; J. Lee, 2; W. Gridley, 3; R. Mingay, 4; C. Sillitoe, 5; G. Maxim, jun. (conductor), 6.

At CHRIST CHURCH, OLDBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.—On Saturday, the 6th inst., an attempt was made for a muffled peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, in memory of the late John Bright, but, owing to the shortness of time, the bells were stopped at half-way in 1 hr. 15 mins. S. Reeves (conductor), 1; W. Cheshire, 2; E. Goodreds, 3; T. Horton, 4; G. Hughes, 5; W. R. Small, 6; B. Hall, 7; J. Hall, 8. Also 350 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. W. Sayers, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; W. R. Small, 3; E. Goodreds, 4; W. Cheshire, 5; T. Horton, 6; B. Hall, 7; J. Hall, 8.

At St. BARTHOLOMEW'S, HORLEY, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, the 7th inst., for evening service, a touch of 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 16 mins. W. Wallis, 1; W. Edwards, 2; T. Whitmore, 3; A. Comber, * 4; T. Kenward, 5; T. Sparks (conductor), 6; J. Taylor, 7; J. Hedgecock, * 8. Also on Thursday evening, the 11th inst., a quarter-peal (1260) of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 42 mins. E. Taylor (first quarter-peal) 1; W. Edwards, 2; T. Whitmore, 3; J. Taylor, 4; E. Dewey, 5; J. Kenward, 6; T. Sparks (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7; A. Sparks, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. [* First 504.]

At THE PARISH CHURCH, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, ESSEX.—On Sunday, the 7th inst., for Divine service, 504 BOB TRIPLES. T. Newman, 1; F. Harris (first 500), 2; H. J. Tucker, 3; F. W. Chapman, 4; G. Prior, 5; H. Prior, 6; P. Springham, 7; G. Cowling (first 500), 8. And on Thursday, the

11th inst., for practice, 167 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. T. Newman, 1; W. Prior, 2; H. Prior, 3; P. Springham, 4; G. Prior, 5; F. W. Chapman, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; G. Cowling 8. Also 720 KENT TREBLE BOB. H. Prior, 1; W. Prior, 2; F. W. Chapman, 3; G. Prior, 4; P. Springham, 5; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 6. Members of the Essex Association, with the exception of Messrs. Cowling and Harris.

At St. LUKE'S, GREAT CROSBY, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday evening, the 7th inst., for Divine service, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR in 26 mins. W. Hale, 1; J. Howard (conductor), 2; J. Sefton, 3; J. R. Pritchard, 4; J. Roughley, 5; J. Hale, 6. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

At St. JOHN'S, HACKNEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Tuesday, the 9th inst., a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes), in 50 mins. J. Davidson, 1; J. Carmichael, 2; W. B. Manning, 3; T. Page (conductor), 4; G. Page, 5; W. Burkin, 6; H. T. Scarlett, 7; W. D. Smith, 8. This was rung in commemoration of the golden wedding of the parents of the Rector, the Rev. F. E. Gardiner.

At GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS.—Handbell-ringing.—On Wednesday, the 10th inst., at the residence of Mr. Truss, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. C. Smith, 1-2; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 3-4; J. C. Truss, jun., 5-6. Also 360 BOB MINOR and 252 STEDMAN TRIPLES with J. C. Truss, sen., 7-8.

At St. MARY-THE-VIRGIN'S, STANSTEAD, ESSEX.—On Thursday, the 11th inst., for practice, 720 BOB MINOR (eighteen singles, three bobs) in 24½ mins. J. Cavill, 1; T. J. Watts (first 720 with a bob bell), 2; I. Hammond, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Luckey, 5; I. Cavill (conductor), 6. And a plain course each of the following methods:—DOUBLE OXFORD, OXFORD BOB, DOUBLE COURT, PLAIN BOB MINOR, COLLEGE SINGLE, KENT and OXFORD TREBLE BOB. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; I. Hammond, 5; I. Cavill, 6. And on Sunday, the 14th inst., for morning service, 600 PLAIN BOB MINOR. T. J. Watts, 1; J. Luckey, 2; I. Cavill, 3; G. Gray, 4; I. Hammond, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. For afternoon service, 540 in the following methods:—KENT and OXFORD TREBLE BOB, PLAIN BOB MINOR, DOUBLE COURT, COLLEGE SINGLE, OXFORD BOB, DOUBLE OXFORD. T. J. Watts, 1; W. Watts, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; I. Hammond, 5; I. Cavill (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13 cwt.

At St. PETER'S, HINDLEY, LANCASHIRE.—On Saturday, the 13th inst., the local company, assisted by E. Bentham of Wigan, rang, with the bells muffled at hand-stroke, the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 29 mins. (called the reverse way), as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Ryle, wife of the Lord Bishop of Liverpool. T. Tickle, 1; E. Brown, 2; J. Brown, 3; R. Calland, 4; E. Prescott, 5; E. Bentham, 6; J. Prescott (conductor), 7; G. Lang, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 1 qr.

At St. GEORGE'S, GRAVESEND, KENT.—On Saturday evening, the 13th inst., with the bells muffled, the usual whole-pull and stand, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. H. Pearce, of Maidstone. Also 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. L. Digweed, 1; F. Hayes, 2; H. D. Davies, 3; J. Broom, 4; B. Spinner, 5; G. Lindoff, R.E. (conductor), 6; G. Hayes, 7; C. Waters, 8.

At THE PARISH CHURCH, WANDSWORTH, SURREY.—On Saturday evening, the 13th inst., with the bells half muffled, being the occasion of the Duchess of Cambridge's funeral, a quarter-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES in 46 mins. W. E. Garrard, 1; G. T. McLaughlin, 2; C. F. Winny (conductor), 3; J. M. Hayes, 4; J. W. Driver, 5; W. T. Cockerill, 6; J. W. Kelly (first quarter-peal of STEDMAN), 7; S. How, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. 3 qrs.

At THE ABBEY, BATH.—On Saturday, the 13th inst., 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, on the back eight, in 53 mins., with the bells half muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Duchess of Cambridge. W. Lanham, 1; G. Temple, 2; J. Holman, 3; J. Smith, 4; H. Wotton, 5; J. Wotton, 6; H. Brown (first quarter-peal and first as conductor), 7; N. Wake and A. Crocker, 8. The above contains the twelve 6-7's and the twelve 7-4's.

At St. MARY'S, LANCASTER.—On Sunday, the 14th inst., for evening service, 1020 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 25 mins. R. S. Hirst (conductor), 1; W. Clayton, 2; R. Walker, 3; T. G. Parker, 4; H. Wilcock, 5; R. Holiday, 6; W. Jackson, 7; G. Winn, 8. It was rung as a farewell touch to one of the ringers, Robert Holiday, who is leaving for Canada.

At St. STEPHEN'S, WESTMINSTER, LONDON.—On Sunday, the 14th inst., for Divine service in the evening, 1248 of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB in 49 mins. E. Gibbs, 1; G. T. McLaughlin, 2; J. N. Oxborrow, 3; H. R. Newton, 4; E. Carter, 5; E. Pemberton, 6; F. G. Newman, 7; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 8.

At THE PARISH CHURCH, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—On the 14th inst., 120 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. H. Markham, 1; W. Smith, 2; F. Biggs, 3; R. Biggs, 4; A. W. Tubb (conductor), 5; B. Page, 6. The ringers of the 3rd, 4th, and 6th belong to the Hughtenden Society.

At SWANSCOMBE, KENT.—On Sunday, the 14th inst., for Divine service in the evening, 720 BOB MINOR. H. Digby, 1; L. Digweed, 2; W. Jackson, 3; F. King, 4; G. Hayes, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

RECEIVED ALSO.—E. P. Debenham (next week); and others.

A HUMANE TELEPHONE.—People who suffer from Deafness and noises in the head will be glad to hear that an eminent Aural Specialist of London has hit upon a cure which is said to be absolutely efficacious, and may be applied at the patient's home. It is a miniature telephone, which fits inside the ear. It is not only a producer of sound, but also a cure for the distressing noises in the head. Being comfortable to wear, it will no doubt be a boon to mankind. A pamphlet describing its construction is printed, and may be had from the publisher, 21 Bedford Square, London, W.C. Price 3d.—[Advt.]