

bands of music and deputations, will meet the prelates at Turn Severin, and will bring them in triumph to Belgrade. It is believed that the government of Serbia have made some secret concessions to the Archbishop.

TURKEY.

On the 27th ult., the Armenian Patriarch was admitted to an audience with the Sultan, and expressed to His Majesty renewed assurances of the devotion and fidelity of his Armenian subjects. The recent references in the press, and especially the remarks of the *Times* as to the condition of the Armenians, are thought to have had some connexion with this.

ITALY.

MONSIGNOR BONOMELLI, bishop of Cremona, has publicly avowed himself to be the author of the article which recently appeared in the *Rassegna Nazionale*, entitled 'Rome, Italy, and the Reality of Things,' and seeking to demonstrate the impossibility of a restoration of the temporal power. The article was censured and forbidden by the Pope. The Bishop has now expressed to his holiness his regret at its publication.

FATHER AGOSTINO concluded his course of Lenten sermons in the church of San Carlo, in the Corso, Rome, on the 23rd ult., by invoking the blessing of heaven upon the Pope, the princes of the Church, the priests, the country, the king, the ministers, and the national army, whose duty it was to defend the country. The Father was summoned before the Cardinal-Vicar on the 26th ult., and, it is said, was severely reproached for the language he used on this occasion.

GERMANY.

THE Old Catholic cause is thriving remarkably at Munich. At Easter the communicants in the church recently erected were so numerous that the newly confirmed had to be placed inside the rails close to the altar. During the present year thirty heads of families have been enrolled, many of them being cases of mixed marriage. A second new church is talked of, a Protestant lady of that city having just bequeathed a legacy. At Bonn last month Bishop Reinkens ordained to the diaconate a graduate from Silesia. Generally throughout Prussian Germany the *Deutscher Merkur* reports satisfactory progress.

SPAIN.

SEVILLE CATHEDRAL is in such a ruinous state that the Minister of Public Works has appointed a commission to report on its condition and the best plans for rebuilding it. Last year some of the pillars were found to be in an unsafe state, and some attempts were then made to repair them. Most of the pillars are now discovered to be in a very bad condition. It is estimated that 400,000*l.* will be required to properly restore the building. The Spanish Government are said to be inclined to ask for assistance from the State, as the subscription started in 1888 by the Queen Regent has not been very successful.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Annual Meeting of the Herts Association at St. Albans.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association was held on Easter Monday, when there were present the Ven. Archdeacon Laurance, the rector of the Abbey; Canon Wigram, rector of St. Andrew's, Hertford; the Rev. H. N. Dudding, vicar of St. Peter's; the Rev. Lord William Cecil, rector of Hatfield; the Revs. P. Deeds, G. H. P. Glossop, and T. T. Blockley; and about forty ringers. During the morning and afternoon, touches of SUPPLEMENTARY MAJOR, DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, BOB MAJOR, STEDMAN TRIPLES, and GRANDSIRE CATERS and TRIPLES were rung at St. Peter's, and STEDMAN and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES at the Cathedral. At 12.45 p.m. a short service was held in the Lady Chapel, when the Archdeacon delivered an address; and the reverend gentleman afterwards presided at the dinner at the 'Peahen' Hotel. After dinner the Secretary explained that the cause of the absence of the worthy President was the recent death of a near relative, which announcement was received with regret. The minutes of the last district meeting having been confirmed, the Secretary was called on for his report, which was then read.

THE REPORT.—'In presenting my first report as Secretary of this Association before the members, I feel I have cause to congratulate them upon the record. There are now eighty-one enrolled ringing members (besides three others whose provisional election will be brought forward at this meeting for confirmation) comprising sixty-five resident and sixteen non-resident. During the ten months which have elapsed since I was elected to my office, there have been twenty-eight peals rung by the Association, viz., eighteen on tower bells and ten on handbells, all the latter being accomplished at St. Albans. There have been district meetings held at Hatfield on June 16th, at Baldock on October 13th, and at Hertford on February 23rd, which were ~~very well attended~~. In accordance with a resolution passed at the Hatfield meeting, I, in company with my brother officers, went through and revised the then existing rules, the alterations being adopted by the members at the next district meeting. I have to bring before you the balance-sheet for the period that I have acted as Secretary, which shows a balance in hand of 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* against 4*l.* 1*s.* in the last account, so that the income has just covered the expenditure. As regards the progress of change-ringing in the county I think that the peal-book is not a bad index; but at the same time the bands at St. Peter's, St. Albans, and Hatfield, are especially marked as coming into prominence, and I think that useful work is being done both at Sawbridgeworth and Baldock; but I should be failing in my duty in not mentioning the band at Benington, which maintains its high position in the ringing world, the Hertford College Youths, and also the Cathedral Society,

St. Albans; and I see in the ringing newspapers accounts of good performances at Bishop's Stortford under the conductorship of Mr. Tucker. It would be very desirable that change-ringing should be taken up more than it is on the western side of the county, as, with the exception of Oxhey, it is practically unknown. I know it is easier to point out a blot than to remedy it; and one of the difficulties in the way seems to be the want of a central line of railway to connect the two sides; as the absence of such communication prevents access, or at all events makes it difficult, to districts which might ultimately repay a visit. If sufficient support should be forthcoming to the Association I think that an allowance might be made under certain conditions towards travelling expenses when incurred for the purpose of instructing young bands desirous to learn the art, even if the question of a paid instructor could not be entertained.'

The balance-sheet showed the total receipts to be 9*l.* 4*s.*, and total expenditure 5*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Balance in hand, 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

On the proposition of Mr. Haworth, seconded by Mr. Buckingham, the report and balance-sheet were received and adopted. The provisional elections of Mr. E. Cains, of Hunsdon, and Messrs. T. Gathard and W. E. Powers, of Hatfield, as members, were confirmed, and the following new members were duly elected:—Messrs. N. N. Hills, T. Grant, E. J. Mitchell, and E. R. Mitchell, of St. Albans; Messrs. E. Bray, J. Craft, and A. Thurgood, of Baldock; and Mr. J. Shepherd, of Hatfield. Mr. Haworth proposed, and Mr. Chapman seconded, the re-election of Mr. Proctor as president; Mr. Lewis proposed, and Mr. J. W. Brewer seconded, the re-election of Mr. Debenham as secretary; and Mr. J. C. Mitchell proposed, and Mr. Waddington seconded, the re-election of Mr. Fowler as auditor. Canon Wigram brought forward a motion with regard to entering notable peals in the appendix to the peal-book, which was seconded by Mr. Crawley, but an amendment being proposed by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Buckingham, some conversation ensued which terminated in the following resolution:—'That peals of exceptional merit, rung by bands some members of which belong to the Association, be entered in the appendix to the peal-book upon permission being received at any meeting;' and the Secretary was subsequently authorised to enter the long peal of STEDMAN CATERS rung at Appleton on the 31st December. The next district meeting was arranged to be at Hitchin in June. Mr. Mitchell called the members' attention to the letter from Mr. Heywood, published in last week's ringing newspapers, respecting the proposed formation of a Central Council of Change-ringing Associations, but at the Chairman's suggestion the further consideration of the same was postponed to a future meeting. Votes of thanks having been accorded to the Chairman for his address and for presiding at the meeting, and to the Secretary for his services, the business meeting terminated. Ringing was then resumed in the two towers, which continued until six o'clock, when there seemed to be a universal desire to call 'stand.' A peal of BOB TRIPLES was rung on handbells in the evening by Messrs. Barnes, Cartmel, Buckingham, and Battle, while at St. Peter's the handbells were kept going for some time in touches.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of this branch was held at Beaconsfield on Easter Monday, at which a large number of persons, chiefly from Boyne Hill and Marlow, were present, and several well-struck touches of TRIPLES and DOUBLES were rung both at Beaconsfield and Woodburn. The business meeting was held in the Church House, Beaconsfield, and was presided over by the Branch President, Rev. A. H. Drummond, vicar of Boyne Hill. Amongst other items it was resolved to hold the next meeting at Wycombe and Hughenden on Whit Monday, if permission could be obtained. The President expressed his satisfaction at meeting the members present at Beaconsfield, and hoped that the local ringers might be induced to rejoin the Oxford Guild in connexion with their own branch. Votes of thanks to the Rector (Rev. C. H. Cholmeley), for the use of the belfry and the Church House, and to the President for presiding, were carried unanimously. The members brought a pleasant and successful outing to a satisfactory conclusion by meeting at tea in Beaconsfield, previous to returning to their respective localities.

Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Diocesan Branch.

THE meeting of the above fixed for May 11th is unavoidably postponed until Saturday, May 18th, at the Parish Church, Wigan. Further particulars next week.

J. R. PRITCHARD, Branch Secretary.

40 Lowther Street, Liverpool.

The Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.

A MEETING of the above branch will be held at All Saints' Church, Hamer, Rochdale, on Saturday, May 4th. The nearest station is Wardsworth, near the church. Bells ready at two p.m. Meeting in the schoolroom near the church from five p.m.

F. BIRTWISTLE, Branch Secretary.

Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

THE Annual Meeting will be held at Warminster, on Wednesday, May 8th. Service in St. Denys' Church at 11.45 a.m.; meeting for election of officers, and other business, in St. Denys' Schools at 12.30; dinner in the Town Hall at 1.15 p.m.

J. R. JERRAM, General Secretary.

The Surrey Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING was held at Camberwell, by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Easter Monday, April 22nd. A considerable number of members mustered in the afternoon, and from three to five o'clock the bells of St. Giles's were sounding merrily in touches of GRANDSIRE CATERS and TRIPLES. After the five o'clock service more members arrived, and at six o'clock a party of thirty-eight sat down to tea at the Surrey Masonic Hall. At the subsequent business meeting eight new members were elected, and it was agreed to hold

the next District Meeting at Mitcham, and the Annual Meeting at Reigate. After the disposal of the business the majority of the members made their way back to the tower, and indulged in touches of STEDMAN, GRANDSIRE, and TREBLE BOB. Members attending the meeting came from the following districts:—Beddington, Carshalton, Croydon, Mitcham, Kingston, Reigate, Streatham, and various parts of London.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

MEMBERS are informed that the *Annual Report* for 1888 is in the hands of the printers, and will be issued very shortly. Those members who have already paid their subscriptions, will kindly inquire of their respective local secretaries for copies, and others will be supplied on payment of their subscriptions. The local secretaries are the same as last year, with the exception that Mr. F. Nicholson, Alstone, Cheltenham, supplants Mr. F. E. Ward as local secretary for the Cirencester, Cheltenham, and Winchcombe Deaneries.

Major Vicarage, Mon.

PITT EYKEN, *Hon. Sec.*

Rochdale and District Association.

THE above Society's next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Todmorden, on Saturday, May 4th, in the schoolroom. Meeting at five. Bells will be at the disposal of ringers from three o'clock. All subscriptions are now due.

Ely Diocesan Association.

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the above Association will be held at Soham, Cambridgeshire, on June 10th (Whit Monday), when the favour of the attendance of all members and persons interested in the Association is requested. (N.B.—Ten bells.) K. H. SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

Cambridge Road, Ely.

Kent County Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING was held at Elham on Easter Monday, April 22nd, attended by forty-four members. The neighbouring church of Lyminge was visited, and some good ringing done at both places; some of the members also visited Folkestone. The Committee admitted a number of new members. The bells at Elham have been put into thorough order by Messrs. Warner, and now go very well.

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Quarterly Meeting in connexion with the above Society was held on the 20th ult. at Sedgley, when the following places were represented:—West Bromwich, Perry Barr, Wombourne, Wednesbury, Wolverhampton, Darlaston, Willenhall, Tipton, and Coseley. Ringing commenced at three o'clock, and was kept up during the afternoon and evening in the GRANDSIRE, STEDMAN, and KENT TREBLE BOB methods. A short service was held at five o'clock, and a committee meeting afterwards, when five tower elections were ratified, and it was decided to hold the Annual Meeting at Lichfield on the 29th June.

The Anniversary Meeting at Braughing near Ware, Herts.

THE Anniversary Ringing Day, held on the 10th of May for over 140 years, in commemoration of a peal of 12,000 BOB MAJOR having been rung by the band of ringers resident in the parish, will be held on Friday, May 10th, when a large gathering of ringers is fully expected from distant parts. L. Proctor, Esq., with his skilled band of ringers from Benington, proposes attending, with many friends, to enjoy some good ringing upon this fine ring of eight bells. Tenor, 19 cwt., in F.

Cambridge Chimes at Douglas, Isle of Man.

A COMPLETE set of Cambridge chimes and chiming machinery has just been fixed at St. Thomas's Church by John Smith & Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby. The same firm made the clock and chimes at Peel Church.

The Death of an Aged Ringer.

MR. GILES MANSFIELD, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, was probably the oldest bell-ringer in the country. He was born October, 1792, and first rang at Painswick, near Stroud, in 1805, his last appearance being at Stroud, in 1882, on his ninetieth birthday. Mr. Mansfield died last April, aged ninety-seven.

A Correction.

SIR,—In the announcement of the decease of Mr. Robert Richardson, made in *Church Bells* of the 18th ult., it is stated that 'the funeral took place on Thursday, the 4th inst., at Southgate Cemetery.' I beg to state that no person of the name of Richardson has been buried in *Southgate Cemetery* during the present year.

ARTHUR CHAMPION, *Clerk and Registrar.*

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Holy Trinity, Privett, Hampshire.

ON Easter Monday, the 22nd ult., the following members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES (Annable's composition) in 2 hrs. 50 mins. G. Instrel (first peal), 1; J. Staples, 2; J. Hewett, 3; C. Tribe,* 4; G. Batts, 5; W. Selby,* 6; G. Williams (conductor), 7; W. Irish, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt. in F. First peal in the method on the bells. [* First peal of TRIPLES.]

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 5 mins. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; M. A. Wood, 2; W. S. Wise, 3; F. E. Dawe, 4; A. A. Clements, 5; W. W. Gifford, 6; T. Blackburn, 7; A. G. Goddard, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. Messrs. Clements, Gifford, Blackburn, and Goddard, came from Salisbury.

At St. Mary's, Cheltenham.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., ten members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang a peal of 15,227 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 9 hrs. 43 mins. F. Musty, 1; G. H. Phillott, 2; S. Reeves, 3; H. Roberts, 4; F. E. Ward, 5; C. H. Hattersley, 6; W. Plant, 7; W. T. Pates, 8; T. Reynolds, 9; A. Humphreys, 10. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson, sen., and conducted by Mr. Pates. Tenor, 22 cwt. The above is the longest peal ever rung on ten bells in any method, and it may also be added is the longest time that any set of ringers have stood to ring. Mr. J. Belcher, the captain of the local band, remained in the church the whole time as umpire and attested the truth of the peal. This is the first peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS conducted by Mr. Pates.

At the Parish Church, Tenterden, Kent.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Kent County Association rang Cox's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 3 mins. A. Hinds, 1; W. E. Pope, 2; R. Edwards, 3; J. G. Tillman, 4; F. Palmer, 5; A. E. Nunn (conductor) 6; G. Neve, 7; T. G. Colvin, 8. Tenor, 30 cwt., in D. Messrs. Pope, Tillman, Palmer, and Colvin, came from Staplehurst; and the above is the quickest peal on the bells.

At St. Edward's, Romford, Essex.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Essex Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 52 mins. L. W. Copsey, 1; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 2; G. Roughton (first peal), 3; W. Pegrum, 4; W. Nash, 5; M. L. Myhill, 6; G. Newson, 7; S. James, 8. Tenor, 17½ cwt.

At the Parish Church, Arundel, Sussex.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang a peal of 5040 CANTERBURY PLEASURE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 38 mins. W. Twigg,* 1; F. Luxford,* 2; C. Blackman, 3; T. Andrews, 4; W. Charman (composer), 5; W. Short, 6; H. Chandler (conductor), 7; A. Mills, 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt. [* First peal in the method.]

At St. Albans, Herts.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., four members of the Hertfordshire Association rang, on handbells retained in hand, Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 21 mins. A. Barnes, 1-2; G. W. Cartmell, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6; W. Battle, 7-8. Umpire, Mr. T. Grant. Rung on the occasion of the conductor's twenty-third birthday.

At St. Mary's, Putney, Surrey.

ON Wednesday, the 24th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 55 mins. F. G. Newman, 1; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, 2; O. F. Winny (conductor), 3; W. E. Garrard, 4; W. W. Thorne, 5; W. T. Cockerill, 6; J. W. Kelly (first peal of STEDMAN), 7; T. H. Beams (first peal), 8. Mr. Beams came from Sleaford; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, Canterbury.

At St. Martin's, Birmingham.

ON Wednesday, the 24th ult., twelve members of the St. Martin's Guild rang a peal of 5019 STEDMAN CINQUES in 3 hrs. 35 mins. J. W. Cartwright, 1; T. Russam, 2; W. E. Smith, 3; H. Bastable, 4; T. Reynolds, 5; B. Witchell, 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson (first peal on twelve bells), 7; J. Plant, 8; W. Kent, 9; C. Stanbridge, 10; J. W. Washbrook, 11; H. Johnson, jun., 12. Tenor, 36 cwt., in C. Composed by Mr. C. H. Hattersley and conducted by Mr. Washbrook.

At All Saints', Ryde, Isle of Wight.

ON Thursday, the 25th ult., Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 9 mins. J. Norris, 1; O. Coombes, 2; W. Ward, 3; W. Jennings, 4; H. Jennings, 5; R. Ward, 6; G. Williams (conductor), 7; A. Ward, 8. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Poole, daughter of the Vicar of this church. First peal by all (except the conductor), who belong to the local band.

At St. Lawrence's, Appleton, Berks.

ON Friday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 3 mins. F. White, 1; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, 2; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 3; C. Hounslow, 4; W. Bennett, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; G. Hollifield, 7; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 8.

At St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster.

ON Saturday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 8896 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 6 hrs. 5 mins. J. Pettit, 1; H. R. Newton, 2; J. N. Oxborrow, 3; G. T. McLaughlin, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; E. Pemberton (Ipswich), 6; E. Horrex, 7; J. M. Hayes, 8. Composed by Mr. Harrison and conducted by Mr. Hayes. Tenor, 25 cwt. This composition, the extent with the tenors together, is the longest peal on this grand ring of bells, and was rung to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the founder of the church.

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