

you how glad I and my family will be, I use the words, " we all," will gladly take part &c, to assist you in any entertainment you may organise for any non-religious work.

I observe you omit to publish the address signed by over 40 of my people, and presented to me on the occasion of a concert given them by me to celebrate Miss North's Birthday.

I have hitherto subscribed £75 a year to the Schools, and £5 a year to the Clothing Club. These subscriptions I shall now withdraw, but following the customs of my Cambridgeshire Estates, this £20 will be spent by me in matters connected with the poor of the parish, under my own direction, and will not in future pass through your hands.

I consider myself free to make this letter as public as you have my former letters.

Faithfully yours,

NORTH. [No reply has been received to this letter.]

WROXTON VICARAGE, BANBURY,

1st DECEMBER, 1887.

MY DEAR Sir,

I feel that it is my duty to hand to you, as an old friend of the parish, a copy of a correspondence which it has - been my painful duty to circulate in our villages. The pamphlet contains none of those details which have accompanied the correspondence as *I have no wish to make the matter a personal one*. The fact that the labourers on the North Estates, together with their wives and families, were prohibited by some person or persons, from attending a village concert on the 21st inst. on behalf of the restoration of our Church Bells is freely discussed in Banbury and this neighbourhood. You will gather from the correspondence that no meeting of the estate employees was ever held.

I most deeply deplore the fact that Lord North when the matter took place countenanced it by inviting the Estate employees and their families (who did not come to the concert) to a tea, &c., at the Abbey on Saturday evening, the 26th inst. I further deplore the fact that Lord North has countenanced the acts and letters of three servants (which appear in the pamphlet), all of them comparative strangers to this parish. Not the least unfortunate incident in this case, was the dismissal from the workshops of one of the most steady and respectable young men in the place, who when told that he must not attend the concert, protested most strongly against the exercise of control over his evening hours. It is of course wrong that he should have made use of strong language in his protest, but for this, I understand, he instantly apologised.

The fear of after consequences will, I am afraid, influence our poorer Church people on future occasions of concerts, &c., unless the ban now instituted be clearly removed, and it is thoroughly understood that Church people are to be able to enjoy their right to attend their Church and to support it without fear of after consequences.

I am, dear Sir, .

Yours very truly,

JOHN R. IZAT.

The facts are so generally known and understood that Lord North considers no comments are required on the above letter, ~ except that no apology was made by the workman to his foreman.

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16, ARLINGTON STREET,

• ' ' 3rd DECEMBER, 1887.

DEAR MR. IZAT,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and its enclosure, and you must excuse my declining to take any part in the present controversy and confine my remarks to what has been for many years customary at Wroxton. I own that it was with great regret I heard, above a year ago, that any difficulty had arisen about ringing the Church Bells on certain occasions, such as the arrival at Wroxton or on the Birthdays of members of my family. It certainly was customary when I first became acquainted with Wroxton in 1835, and I know that the custom prevailed previous to that from 1827, when my late brother-in-law, Lord Bute had charge of the Estates until I married, and I have no doubt that mark of respect for the family existed long before that. I was frequently a sufferer from the custom for, during the Parliamentary Sessions^ when I was only able to get away for a day, when I had a great deal to do and but little time to do it in, the Bells announced my arrival, so there was an end to my privacy, when it entailed many visitors, but I felt it was a compliment kindly intended and of course made no remark upon it. I can most truly say that not only was no objection taken to the ringing of the Bells by any Incumbent of the Parish from 1835 until your arrival, but that they took the greatest pleasure in carrying into effect the kind feelings of the parishioners for my family. You are aware that shortly after I presented you to the living, Lady North's state of health, unfortunately, obliged us to give up our residence at Wroxton, I therefore cannot say whether the bells were rang on our Birthdays or not, but as you never made any objection to me I suppose they were. You say the man who reminded you on the 4th October, 1886, was not the *chief* ringer, but that could hardly signify, as his object was to remind you of Lord North's Birthday, as the old custom was to ring the Bells the first thing in the morning before they went to work, and after their return from work the 'Bells

were rang again, and the men came down to the Abbey for refreshment. I mention, this as the custom which prevailed from the time. I first went to Wroxton.

You must allow, me to say I think Lord North's letter to you of the 19th November deserved a more courteous answer than you sent him. No one can deny that Church Bells form an integral part of the Church. They may not be intended for secular use, being, as you say they are usually consecrated, but, living as I now do nearly the whole year in London, I can say that many of the Churches, whose Bells are probably consecrated, ring in honor of the Birthdays of members of the Royal Family, and some of the Churches even hoist the Royal Standard, which, you will admit is not Ecclesiastical. I cannot help remarking that from the early part of last August to the 17th of September, when I left Wroxton, the Bells were rang or chimed every Sunday, and I think the same might have been done a few days later on Lord North's Birthday, the 5th October.

- Faithfully yours,

J. SIDNEY NORTH.

As you have published Lord and Lady North's letters, I shall reserve to myself the right to publish this letter, and perhaps you will not object to your letter to me being published at the same time.

WROXTON,

DEC. 8th, 1887.

To the Right Hon. LORD NORTH, • ? .

We, the undersigned, having canvassed the village of Wroxton concerning the keeping up of all the old customs of ringing the Church Bells, we beg to forward you a copy of the list of those in favour of the same,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN TIMS. ANDREW FOX. W. THOMPSON.

[The following is the correspondence that has already been published.] -

Wroxton Vicarage Banbury . 30th Nov., 1887. '

Dear Lord North,

I'm sure you will agree with me in thinking that it is better that the enclosed correspondence should be circulated, so as to give our people an opportunity of seeing for themselves the actual letters which have been distorted and misused to create a painful disturbance, and upset the village of late.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN ROBERT IZAT. -

[COPY.] *

WROXTON,

DEC. 5th, 1887.'

To the Kcv. J. E. IZAT,

The Vicarage, Wroxton.

REV. SIR, * . . •

We, the undersigned residents of the Parish of Wroxton, ask your kind permission to allow all the old customs of ringing the Church bells to be continued as in the past., Andrew Fox. John Tims. William Thompson. Job Carpenter, Emma Carpenter. Mary Fox. Thomas Palmer. C. Whing. C. Ward. R. Lamb. O. Hughes. John Miller. Thomas Hughes. Mary Hughes. John Ward. James Freeman. Daniel Taylor. Edward Taylor W. C. Philpot. Peter Betts. William Jakeman.

William Cox. George Harris. Jabez Hayes. B. P Hayes. W. Berry. . William Hughes. Henry Taylor. David Grant. H. Oxley. Jane Hughes. Mrs. Hayes. Thomas Barton. William Harris? S. A. Harris. Reuben Taylor. Caleb Hawtin. . George Goodman. Edward Taylor. H. W. Berry. Edmund Lake. Oliver Grant. William Grant

Thomas Hussey.

Thomas Henry Mills. Ellen Allington.

William Gregory. Amos Grant.

Richard Hughes.

Mrs. Hughes

George Ingram.

John Betts.

John O. Pearson.

Jesse Hughes.

William Neville.

Richard Palmer.

Joseph Cleydon.

Arthur Freeman.

John Grant. William Ward. Geo. F. North. Joseph Harris. Henry Taylor, sen. Alfred Fisher. John Henry Hayes.

Joseph Betts. John Bartlett.

Caleb Grant. William Berry. Charles Taylor. John Alfred. George Ping. Charles Allington. William Ward, jun.

Esau Hemmings. Hugh Fox. John Taylor. John Hemmings. Samuel Hawkes. Robert Franklin. Janet Slatter.

Dennis Cross. Thomas Cross. S Carpenter. Henry Jakeman. Henry Tayler. George Cross. Jemima Cross. Joseph Cross. Louisa Cross. A. Jordan. C. Parrett. H. Neville, sen.-M. Neville. H, Neville. W. Bryant. Thomas Doherty. S. P. Sullivan. W. Herbert. George Cadd.

Frederick Blackwell, Joshua T. H. Lord. Henry Mills. . Eliza Grant.

To the Parishioners of Wroxton-cum-Balscote.

Wroxton Vicarage, Banbury,

30th November, 1887.

As certain misleading and erroneous statements have lately been freely circulated throughout the parish, and even beyond its bounds, with regard to my correspondence with LORD NORTH, as to the ringing of our Church Bells, I think it only right, as well to the parishioners as to those concerned, to print the letters in order.

Two of these statements are—

- i. That I have refused to allow the Church Bells to be rung on the 5th and 13th of October, in honour of the birthdays of LORD NORTH and The Hon. W. F. NORTH.
- ii. That a certain letter of mine, dated 19th inst., was so wanting in courtesy to LORD NORTH, that it has caused a very strong protest to be entered against it on the part of the workmen on LORD NORTH'S estate, and that in consequence, the said workmen decline in any way to countenance or support the fund being raised for the rehangng of the Bells.

The correspondence etc. shall speak for itself.

On October 5th, 1886, the following letter was received by me from LADY NORTH; appended to which will be found my reply to her of the same date:—

WROXTON ABBEY,
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

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DBAR MR. IZAT, • .-••..

• I venture to write and ask how it is that the Bells have not been rung this morning, as they have been for the past fifty years, in honor of my husband's birthday. I have been told, on asking our men, that you would not give the necessary permission, bnt I cannot think this can be correct. I therefore write so that you may have time to give orders which will do away with this impression.

Believe me, Yours very truly,

F. NOKTH.