MISCELLANEA

CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

REUNION

I am ashamed to say that only two days ago did I see for the first time Fr. Wilfred Knox's review of Fr. L. Walker's *The Problem of Reunion* in your issue for September, 1920, and Fr. Walker's letter of September 10, 1920; and I wonder if you will think me too belated to be allowed to say anything on the subject. The point which concerns me is this: Fr. Knox stated that "the bulk of those who seceded (in 1662) were intruded ministers who had not received episcopal ordination, and . . . the main reason for their secession was the demand that they should submit to such ordination." Such is undoubtedly the fact, as I think no one acquainted with the contemporary literature can doubt. Fr. Walker was thought, by Fr. Knox, to have passed it over, and Fr. Walker agreed that he had regarded it as a minor point, and referred to my *History of the Church of England, 1625-1714*, as showing that he was at one with me. May I be allowed to say that I believe that Fr. Walker wrongly interpreted the action of those who withdrew on St. Bartholomew's Day? I think that the contemporary evidence quite clearly proves that they did so not because the contentions of their representatives at the Savoy Conference were not accepted, but because they were required by law, in order to have benefices, to accept the Prayer Book which required episcopal ordination. It is simply a matter of fact. They could not hold benefices unless they were episcopally ordained; and they would not consent to be ordained or to express agreement with the Prayer Book, which required ordination. I stated this explicitly on p. 192 of my book.

W. H. HUTTON.

DOCUMENT

AUSTRALIA AND REUNION*

THE official report of the proceedings of the Reunion Conference between representatives of the Anglican Presbyterian Methodist and Congregationalist Churches in Australia, held at the Church House, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, on March 28-29, 1922, has lately been published, and contains much of general interest.

The Conference was the result of an invitation issued by the Reunion Committee of General Synod to those Churches which were already contemplating Reunion among themselves—namely, the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists—and by this means the difficulty was avoided of having to ask a number of small Churches which would have expected representation altogether out of proportion to their importance, and would probably have overwhelmed the Conference with a flood of talk, contributing little or nothing to the real points at issue, which were, in brief, the extent to which the truths contained in the Presbyterian and Congregational ideals of Church government could find a place with episcopacy in a Reunited Church.

The Anglican representatives were the Archbishops of Sydney and Brisbane, the Bishops of Bathurst, Goulburn, and Willochra, the Dean

* By the Bishop of Willochra, Rt. Rev. Gilbert White, D.D.