

Among the Bells

by

Rev. F. E. Robinson

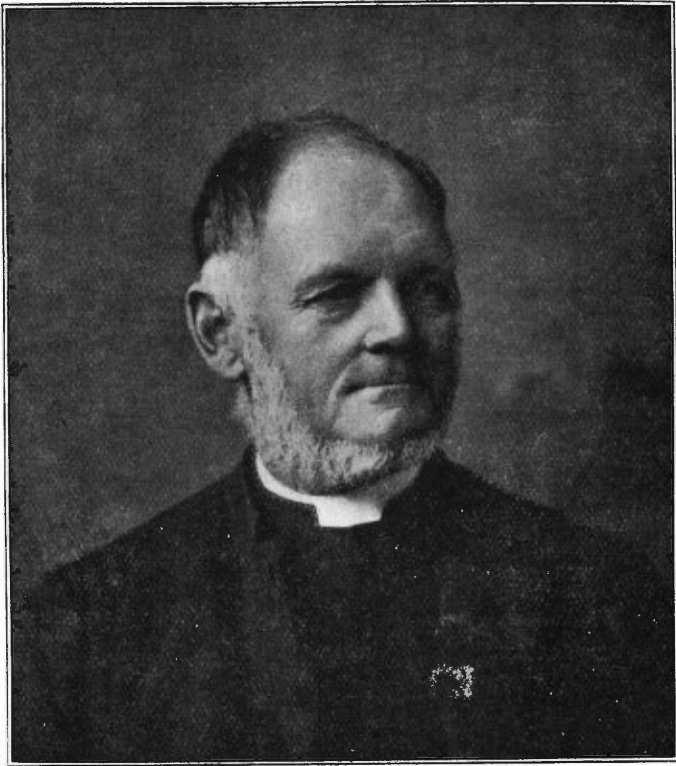
File 01 – Preamble and Introduction
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Yours very truly
F. E. Robinson

“ PERSEVERA — PER SEVERA — PER SE|VERA ”

AMONG THE BELLS.

THE RINGING CAREER,

Written by Himself,

OF

The Rev. F. E. ROBINSON, M.A.

VICAR OF DRAYTON, BERKS,

MASTER OF THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD,

—MEMBER OF—

The Ancient Society of College Youths.
The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.
The Bedfordshire Association.
The Central Northamptonshire Association.
The Chester Diocesan Guild.
The Devonshire Guild.
The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.
The Essex Association.
The Gloucester and Bristol Association.
The Hertford County Association.
The Kent County Association.
The Lancashire Association.
The Lincoln Diocesan Guild.
*The Middlesex County Association and London
Diocesan Guild.*
The Midland Counties Association.
The Norwich Diocesan Association.
The Oxford City Society. (Founded 1737)
The Oxford University Society.
The Salisbury Diocesan Guild.
The Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.
The St. James' Society.
The St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.
The Surrey Association.
The Sussex County Association.
The Winchester Diocesan Guild.
The Worcestershire and District Association.
The Yorkshire Association.

EDITED, WITH A PREFACE,

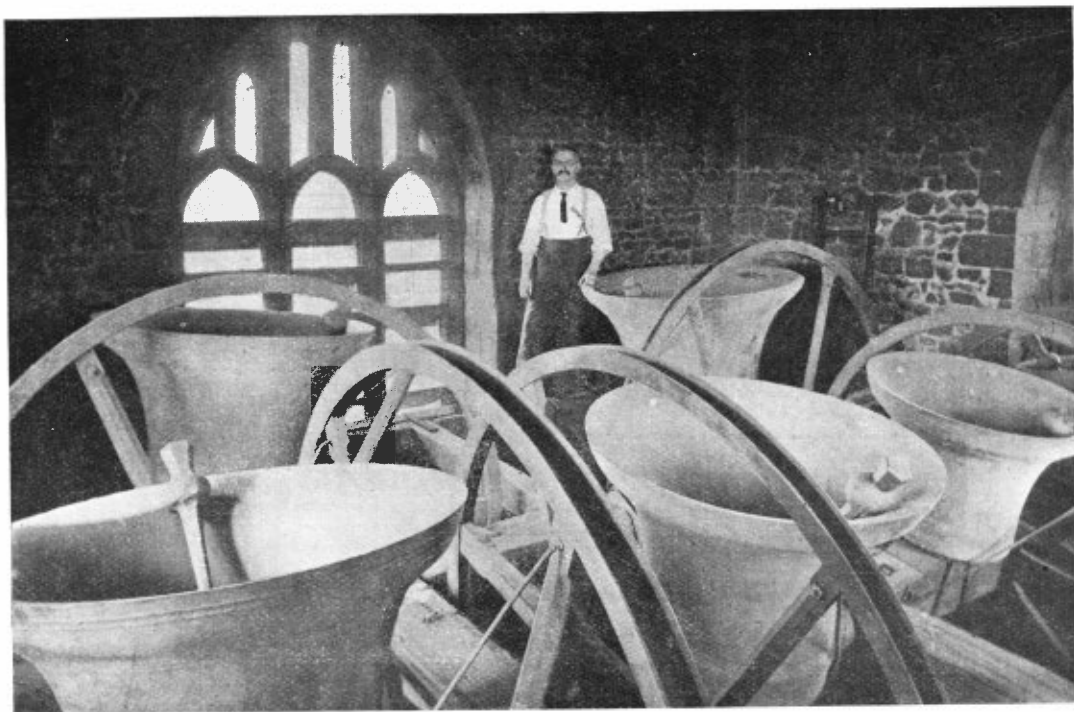
BY THE

REV. T. L. PAPILLON, M.A.,

Vicar of Writtle, Essex, Master of the Essex Association of Change-Ringers.

The particulars of Bells in Buckinghamshire have been taken from Mr. A. H. Cocks's work, "The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire" (Jarrod, 1897), which has also been used for verifying the dates of the various Bell-founders.

To
Sir Arthur Percival Heywood, Bart.,
Founder and First President
of the
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
this Work is, by permission,
gratefully Dedicated.




What Bells look like when ready for being rung.

INTRODUCTION

BY THE

REV. T. L. PAPILLON, M.A.,

Vicar of Writtle, Essex, Master of the Essex Association of Change-Ringers.

 HIS record of a ringing career of more than forty years speaks for itself, and, to change-ringers at any rate, needs no introduction. It covers a notable period of revival in the art of change-ringing; of elevation in the character and position of ringers; of increased care for the belfry as a part of the House of God, and for the bells as a valuable item of Church property, too often neglected in the past; of growing interest on the part of clergy and Church authorities in their bells and in the men who ring them. In regard to all these signs of progress Mr. ROBINSON can say *Quorum pars magna fui*. He has been a pioneer in what is now a happily increasing tendency among parochial clergy to look upon their ringers as a part of the parochial machinery—"Churchworkers" no less than the choir or the Church officials. He has found, as all who try it do find, that the personal interest of the clergy, and frequent presence in Church belfries, is the surest way of raising the tone of their ringers, and the reputation of their art: and he has shown that a parish clergyman may make change-ringing his hobby, and devote considerable time and energy to it, without neglecting his clerical duties, or forfeiting the respect attaching to his office. If any of the younger clergy, or young men at our Universities or Theological Colleges, who look forward to Holy Orders, are stimulated by Mr. ROBINSON'S example to take up change-ringing as a

pastime, they will assuredly not regret it : and I may add that the authorities of the last-named institutions would do well to provide for their students encouragement and facilities for so doing.

The primary interest of this memoir is, no doubt, for change-ringers. It records many of the most notable performances, and preserves the names of many leading ringers, during the period which it covers ; and it collects much valuable information not otherwise accessible, or accessible only in widely scattered form, about the best and most celebrated rings of bells all over England, in cathedral cities and great towns, and in quiet country villages. It does not deal, except incidentally, with the history and antiquity of bells. That is the province of the antiquarian side of bell-lore, as treated in various monographs upon the Church bells of counties or districts. But upon the campanological side of the science it should prove a valuable work of reference, not only to the change-ringer, but to the Church historian or to diocesan authorities—perhaps even to Church architects, who may find in these pages, when disposed to condemn existing towers as unsafe for peal-ringing, useful evidence to the contrary ; and in designing new towers, may be moved to provide better accommodation in the ringing chamber, and make it and the bells easier of access. This is more important than they think. Our architects, past and present, must be held partly responsible for the carelessness which leaves bells, high up in some windy, inaccessible tower, unvisited, save by owls and jackdaws ; and for the difficulties which prevent clergy and churchwardens from setting foot in ringing chambers, to which they must grope their way up dark and dangerous steps, or clamber by precarious ladders. Clergy, churchwardens, and sextons are always human, and sometimes middle-aged ; and it is no matter for wonder if they decline to risk themselves in many of our church towers—especially if they are, as yet, untouched by

that "last infirmity of noble minds," the love of bells and of change-ringing.

With these few words the Prologue makes his bow, leaving the stage free for the protagonist, or chief actor.

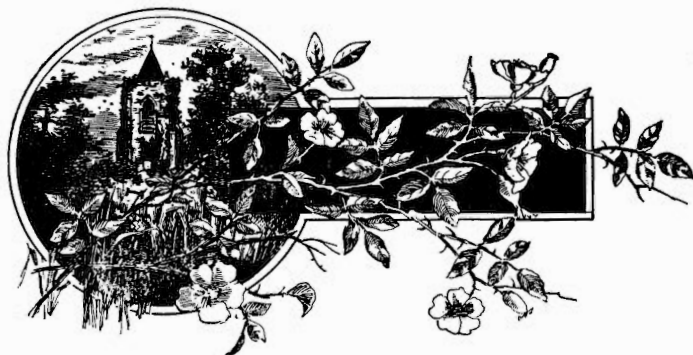
FRANCIS EDWARD ROBINSON was born at Begbrook, Oxon, in 1833. He was educated at Winchester College and Exeter College, Oxford, taking his B.A. degree (Hon. Fourth Class in Mathematics) in 1853, and proceeding to his M.A. in 1857. From 1853 to 1867 he was a clerk and partner in the Old Bank, Oxford.

Having decided to take Holy Orders, MR. ROBINSON was, in 1868, ordained deacon to the curacy of Tubney, Berks, and in the following year priest, by Bishop Wilberforce, of Oxford. In 1878 he was presented by Lord Wantage to the vicarage of Drayton. He also filled, 1872 to 1902, the office of Diocesan Inspector of Schools, and he was a J.P. for the county of Berks from 1864 till 1892, when he retired, finding the duties of a J.P. incompatible with those of a parochial clergyman.





MR. FREDERICK WHITE, OF APPLETON,
Who taught me the rudiments of the Art of Change-ringing.



AMONG THE BELLS.

CHAPTER I.

IN the year 1859, while residing with my father at Stonesfield, George Barter, of Merton, took me up to Appleton, and introduced me to Mr. Alfred White, of Besselsleigh, and his sons Henry and Frederick. From them I learned the art of change-ringing, having mastered the handling of a bell while an undergraduate at Exeter College, Oxford, 1850-53. My first peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Appleton, October 13th, 1859, the ringers being:—

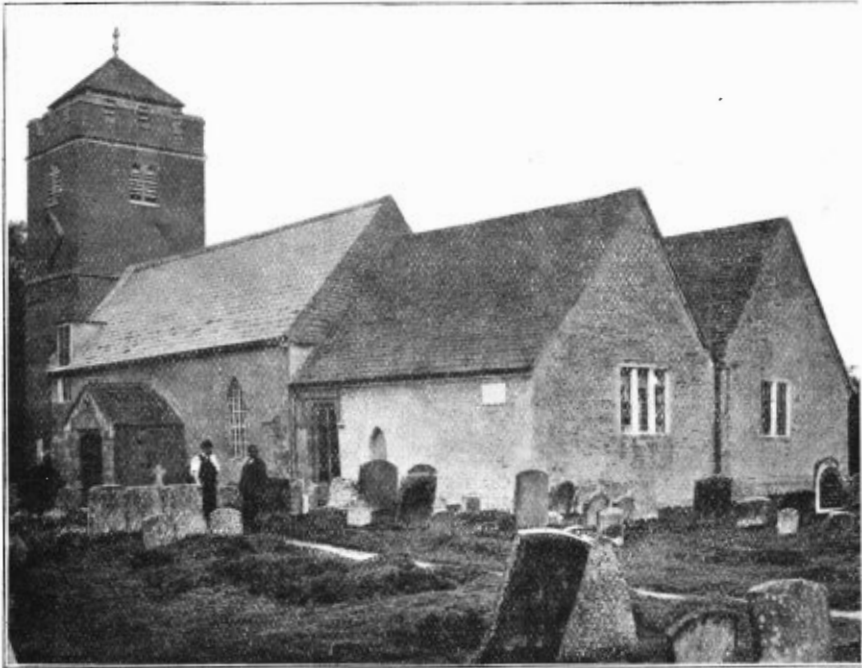
| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. White <i>Treble</i> | F. E. Robinson 5 |
| F. White 2 | R. Pitman 6 |
| C. Hounslow 3 | A. Tyror 7 |
| H. White (conductor) 4 | H. Pitt <i>Tenor</i> |

This was followed on December 16th, 1859, by a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, (5024 changes):—

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| H. Woodward <i>Treble</i> | F. E. Robinson 5 |
| C. Hounslow 2 | H. White (conductor) 6 |
| A. White 3 | R. Pitman 7 |
| N. White 4 | F. White... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

We then began practising Stedman Triples, and after many fruitless attempts, rang our first peal (a very perfect one) in the afternoon of February 12th, 1861, having failed in the morning of the same day.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| N. White... .. <i>Treble</i> | E. Corbut 5 |
| C. Hounslow 2 | H. White (conductor) 6 |
| F. E. Robinson 3 | F. White 7 |
| B. Barrett 4 | W. Robins <i>Tenor</i> |



S. LAURENCE, APPLETON.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|------|------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 3 | 1 | 20 | 1875 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 1875 | " " |
| 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1859 | C. & G. Mears. |
| 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1875 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1875 | " " |
| 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1818 | T. Mears, junr. |
| 7 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1818 | " " |
| 8 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 1874 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 9 | 9 | 3 | 19 | 1861 | G. Mears & Co. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 14 | 0 | 0 | 1861 | " " |

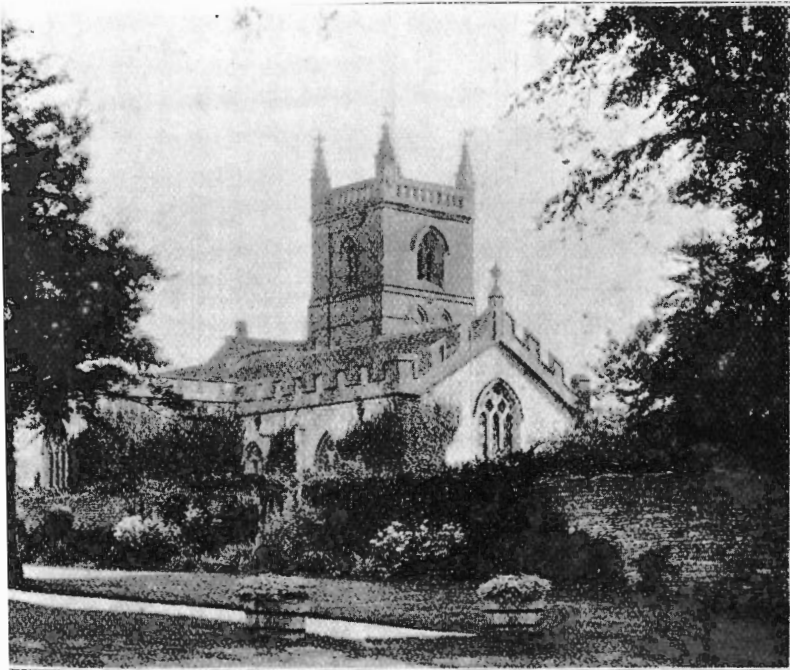
In 1861 Appleton bells were augmented to ten by the addition of two tenors, cast by Mears & Stainbank. Our first peal of Grandsire Caters was rung on October 11th, 1861.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| R. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | R. Pitman | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | H. White (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| A. White | ... | ... | ... | 4 | F. White... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| E. Corbut | ... | ... | ... | 5 | W. Robins | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On March 21st, 1862, the first peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton (as we hoped) was rung ; but the composition (Hubbard's 5076) proved to be false.

No more peal-ringing was done until March 4th, 1865, when F. White conducted a 6101 of Grandsire Caters (his own composition).

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| A. Gardener | ... | ... | ... | Treble | B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| J. Newman | ... | ... | ... | 3 | F. White | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| G. Rowles | ... | ... | ... | 4 | H. Woodwards | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| H. White | ... | ... | ... | 5 | R. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |



S. JOHN THE BAPTIST, COLN ST. ALDWYN.

| | In. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 24 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1865 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1865 | " " |
| 3 | 28 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1725 | Abraham Rudhall. |
| 4 | 29 | 4 | 1 | 0 | " | " " |
| 5 | 32 | 5 | 3 | 0 | " | " " |
| 6 | 32 | 5 | 3 | 0 | " | " " |
| 7 | 36 | 8 | 0 | 0 | " | " " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 37 | 8 | 2 | 0 | " | " " |

(Near this Church the greater part of "The Christian Year" was written by the late Rev. J. Keble.)

On September 11th, 1865, I rang my first peal away from Appleton (*viz.*, at Coln St. Aldwyn, Gloucestershire, a very light ring of eight, tenor $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.) 5040 Grandsire Triples, conducted by H. White.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|----------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| A. White | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 5 |
| J. Newman | ... | ... | ... | 2 | H. White | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 3 | F. White | ... | ... | 7 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 4 | N. White | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. MARY MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

| | In. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------------------|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 28 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1740 | Abel Rudhall. |
| 2 | 29 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1739 | " " |
| 3 | 29 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1712 | Abraham Rudhall. |
| 4 | 30 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1712 | " " |
| 5 | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1748 | Abel Rudhall. |
| 6 | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1623 | E(lis) K(night). |
| 7 | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 | 3 | 0 | No name nor date. | |
| 8 | 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1828 | R. Taylor & Sons. |
| 9 | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 13 | 0 | 0 | 1641 | — |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 19 | 0 | 0 | 1623 | E(lis) K(night). |

Of all the towers I have ever seen, with the exception of Boston "Stump" and "Bell Harry" Canterbury, there is none which I admire so much as that of Magdalen College, Oxford. Its beauty does not consist in ornament, for, with the exception of its graceful pinnacles, it is rather plain; but its proportions are so exquisite, and its situation so fine, that once seen it can never be forgotten.

This charming tower had at least five bells in 1623, when the present 6th and tenor bells were cast by Ellis Knight, of Reading. I have been assured by an excellent authority that this celebrated tenor does not exceed 19 cwt., and as the diameter is only $47\frac{1}{2}$ inches, I have no doubt that is about the weight. If then, such a fine tone could 250 years ago be obtained from such a small amount of metal, how is it that some founders use 25 cwt. and more to produce the same note? The 7th bell is ancient; its marks show that it was the work of William Founder, of London. The 9th was recast in 1641; it has no name or initials, but was, perhaps, cast by the founder who in the previous year was employed about the 5th and 9th at Christ Church. The ring was made eight in 1712, when the present 3rd and 4th bells were cast by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, who at the same time recast the 8th bell. Next, William Freeman, Esquire, a member of the College and a great lover of bells, gave two trebles in 1740; these were cast by Abel Rudhall, who eight years later recast the 5th bell at the expense of the same gentleman. Lastly, the 8th, cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1712, was recast by R. Taylor in 1828. This ring, though thus made up by degrees, is one of unusual excellence; I doubt if there is in the kingdom another ring of the same weight which is equally musical. The bells, then, are worthy of the tower.

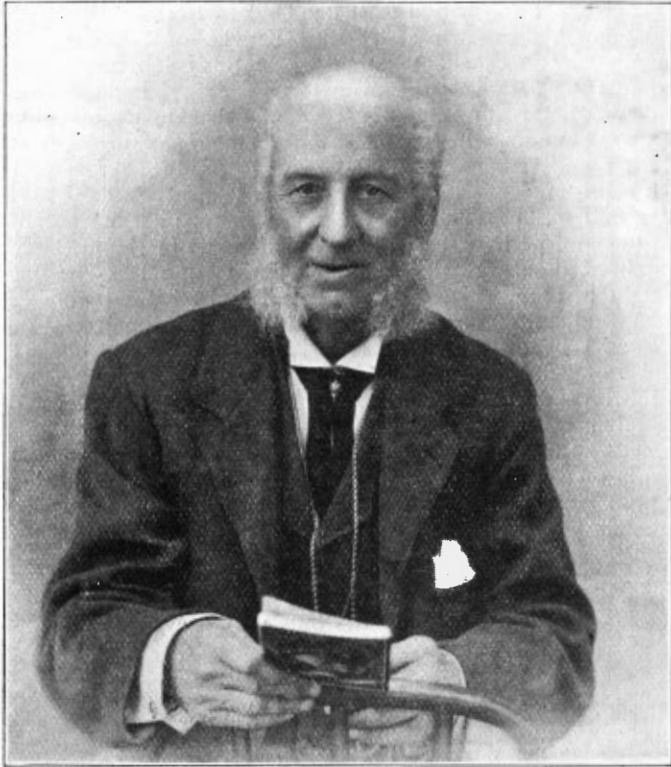
I took part in a peal at Magdalen College, Oxford, *viz.*, 5021 Grandsire Caters, on October 8th, 1866,—the only peal I ever rang there—conducted by H. White.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| A. White | ... | ... | ... | Treble | C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| H. Mills | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| T. Hill | ... | ... | ... | 3 | H. White | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| R. Young | ... | ... | ... | 4 | F. White | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 5 | H. Pitt | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

On March 4th, 1868, I rang the 6th in a 5364 of Grandsire Caters, composed and conducted by F. White; and on May 11th, 1868, I rang my last peal as a layman, *viz.*, Grandsire Triples, at Dorchester, Oxon.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| A. White | ... | ... | ... | Treble | N. White | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| F. White | ... | ... | ... | 2 | H. White (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 4 | W. White | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

This was the last peal conducted by H. White.



MR. CHARLES HOUNSLOW, OF OXFORD.
One of my oldest ringing friends,



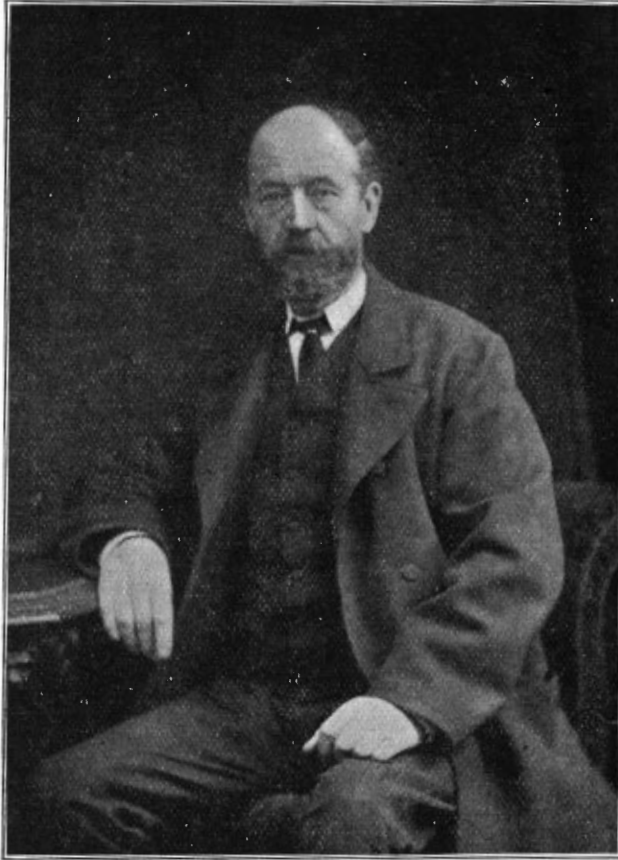
S. MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---------------|------|------|------|--|--------------|------|------|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 4 | 3 | 9 | | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 24 | | 6 | 8 | 0 | 25 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | | 7 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 18 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 14 | 1 | 23 |

Cast in 1861 by G. Mears & Co.

I was ordained Deacon in 1868 at Cuddesdon, and Priest in 1869, at St. Luke's, Maidenhead, by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. On June 18th, 1869, I rang my first peal as a clergyman, Stedman Triples, at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, in 2h. 52m.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| J. Pettit | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | 5 |
| H. Booth | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. M. Hayes | ... | 6 |
| J. E. Troyte | ... | ... | ... | 3 | M. A. Wood (conductor) | ... | 7 |
| H. W. Haley | ... | ... | ... | 4 | C. Lee | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

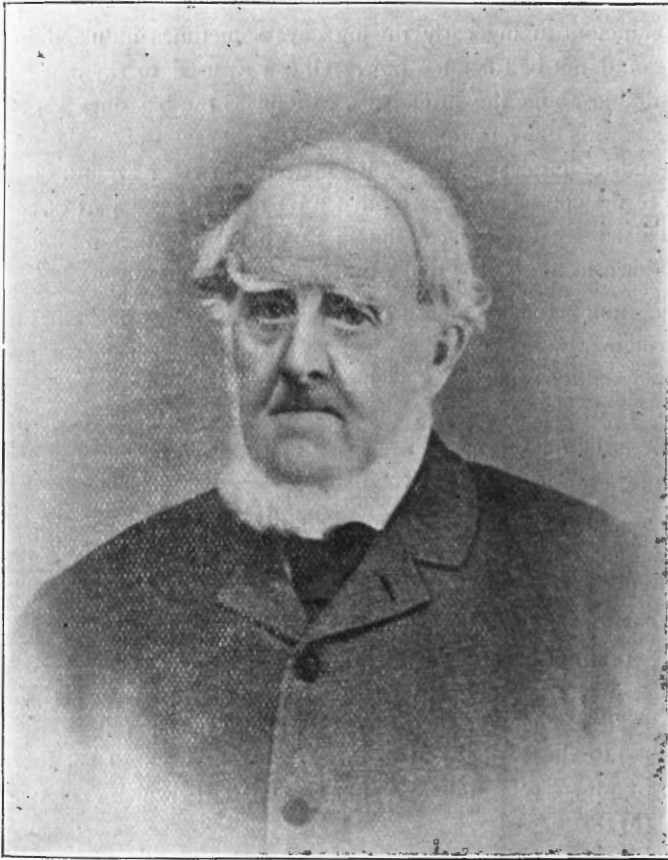


MR. MATTHEW A. WOOD.

Then followed an interval of more than four years, during which, though living at Appleton Rectory, I did not ring at all, owing to the disreputable conduct of one or two members of the band. On my rejoining it, we rang on December 2nd, 1873, and March 4th, 1874, two capital peals of College Single Triples, conducted by F. White.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| C. Harper | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery .. | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| A. White | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. White... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | H. Woodward | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 4 | T. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

F. White also conducted the following peals, in which I took part :—
Grandsire Triples, November 5th, 1874 ; 5004 Grandsire Caters, June
5th, 1875 ; 5021 Grandsire Caters, December 27th, 1875 ; 5364 Grand-
sire Caters, March 4th, 1876.



MR. HENRY JOHNSON.

After several attempts by others to call a peal of Stedman, I
was requested by the Appleton band to conduct their peals, and I made
my débüt on March 5th, 1877, by calling Mr. Johnson's 5079 Stedman
Caters, at Appleton, in 3h. 22m.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| F. S. White | Treble | G. Holifield | 6 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| B. Barrett | 3 | J. Avery | 8 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | F. White... .. | 9 |
| G. H. Phillott | 5 | T. Bennett | Tenor |

N.B.—F. S. White was 14 years old, and E. Holifield 15 years.

The first true peal of Stedman Caters on Appleton bells.

Conductors in my early ringing days sometimes indulged in laxity that would not be tolerated now. One, *e.g.*, used to say that “he did not trouble about the little bells, so long as the big ones kept right.” The following conversation is reported to have taken place during a peal of Grandsire Triples: “What’s the matter with you?” quoth one of the band to the conductor, who replied “We’re in the last part of the peal, but I can’t get the bells round”: to which the other rejoined “Ah, we’ve been in he a smart many times; let me call ‘em round.”

The same man, a homespun wit, was once asked, when employed in bell-hanging, how he got the bells up the spiral staircase of the tower—an impossibility—the bells of course being hoisted through openings in the floors of the tower. His remark was “I was glad when the man asked me the question, because I felt that we had not got quite all the fools in the world in my native village.”

On another occasion, when his Rector would not allow him to ring the Church bells, his reply was—“Well, then, none of my family never shan’t darken no church doors never no more”—thus unconsciously transferring to his own language the usage of classical Greek, in which the repetition of negatives strengthens the negation.

In 1878 I was presented by Col. Loyd Lindsay (afterwards Lord Wantage) to the benefice of Drayton, Berks. I found six new bells there, by Mears & Stainbank, tenor about 7 cwt., which had been put up in 1871.

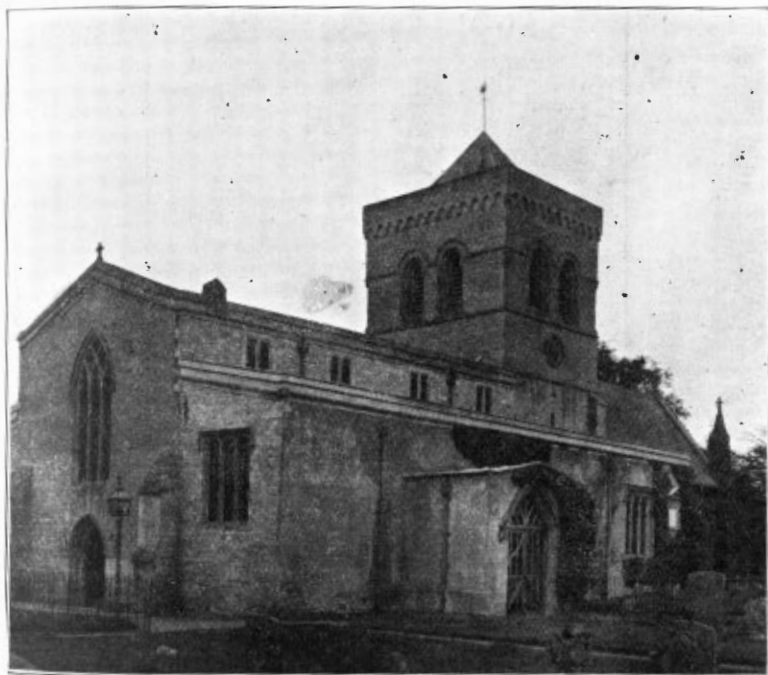
On December 6th, 1878, after one or two unsuccessful attempts, I called my first peal of Stedman Triples at S. Matthews’, Bethnal Green, in 2h. 59m.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| J. Pettit | Treble | G. Dorrington | 5 |
| W. Cecil... .. | 2 | M. A. Wood | 6 |
| G. A. Muskett | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| W. Cooter | 4 | W. Crockford | Tenor |

In 1879 I rang in three peals, *viz.*, 5040 Grandsire Triples at Kirtlington, June 14th, conducted by C. D. P. Davies. (Holt's Ten-part.)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| H. A. Cockey (Wadham) ... <i>Treble</i> | G. F. Coleridge (Keble) ... 5 |
| C. D. P. Davies (Pembroke) ... 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (Exeter)... 6 |
| R. E. Fiske (Keble) ... 3 | G. H. Phillott (Christ Church) 7 |
| W. S. Willett (Oriol) ... 4 | W. J. Smith (Oxford City) ... <i>Tenor</i> |

First peal in which working bells were rung by University men.



S. MARY, KIRTLINGTON.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 29 | 5 2 0 | 1718 | Henry Bagley. |
| 2 | 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 6 0 0 | 1853 | C. & G. Mears. |
| 3 | 32 | 6 2 0 | 1870 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 4 | 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 7 2 0 | 1718 | H. Bagley. |
| 5 | 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 9 3 0 | 1718 | " |
| 6 | 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 10 1 0 | 1718 | " |
| 7 | 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 12 2 0 | 1718 | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 19 2 0 | 1753 | Abel Rudhall. |

On September 19th, a peal of Grandsire Triples was conducted by me at Farnham, Surrey.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| G. H. Barnett | <i>Treble</i> | C. Boxall | 5 |
| Rev. A. D. Hill | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 6 |
| H. Boxall | 3 | S. Brooker | 7 |
| G. Sayer | 4 | A. White... .. | <i>Tenor</i> |

This was the first peal in which two clergymen took part.



S. CLEMENT DANES, STRAND, LONDON.

| | In. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders.. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 26½ | 4 1 0 | 1843 | C. Oliver. |
| 2 | 28½ | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 29 | 5 3 0 | 1693 | W. & P. Wightman. |
| 4 | 31½ | 6 2 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 33 | 7 1 0 | 1843 | C. Oliver. |
| 6 | 36 | 9 0 0 | 1693 | W. & P. Wightman. |
| 7 | 40 | 11 3 0 | " | " |
| 8 | 42 | 12 2 0 | " | " |
| 9 | 48 | 20 0 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 53 | 25 0 0 | " | " |

On December 27th, 1879, after two unsuccessful attempts, I had the pleasure of calling a 6264 of Stedman Caters at S. Clement Danes Church, Strand, London.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| M. A. Wood | ... | ... | ... | Treble | J. Pettit | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| G. H. Phillott | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| G. Dorrington | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. M. Hayes | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| R. French | ... | ... | ... | 4 | F. Bate | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| W. Jones | ... | ... | ... | 5 | E. Horrex | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

The same peal, conducted by myself, was rung at Appleton on March 4th, 1880, at the first attempt, in 4h. 7m.

On February 21st, 1880, I conducted the first peal of Stedman Triples at Appleton, on the bells as altered to ten in 1861, in 2h. 58m; and on April 24th, 1880, I conducted my first peal of Grandsire Caters, 5040, at Appleton, in 3h. 28m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| F. S. White | ... | ... | ... | Treble | G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| F. White... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Avery | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 4 | H. Woodward | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 5 | T. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

In 1880, the six bells at Drayton (cast in 1871 out of an old cracked ring of five) were augmented to eight by the addition of a treble and tenor, cast by Mears & Stainbank; the 4th bell being flattened half a note and serving as the 5th bell in the ring of eight. The weight of the new tenor is 9 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs., key G. The inscription on this bell is "To the glory of God, the gift of the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Vicar of this parish. T. N. Dewe and C. Lyford, churchwardens, 1880.

I toll the funeral knell,
I hail the festal day,
The fleeting hour I tell,
I summon all to pray."

The weight of the new treble is 3 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lbs. The inscription on the bell is "To the glory of God, the gift of the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Vicar of this parish. T. N. Dewe and C. Lyford, churchwardens, 1880.

While here we blend in tuneful sound
May peace and holiness abound."

The ring is now one of the lightest and most melodious rings of eight bells in the country. The hanging was most satisfactorily done by Mr. F. White, of Besselsleigh.

The two new bells were dedicated, together with a new organ, at a special service on May 27th, 1880; and in the afternoon we opened the new ring of eight with a 5040 Grandsire Triples, conducted by myself, (the first peal ever called by an incumbent upon his own bells):—

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| F. S. White | ... | ... | ... | Treble | W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. White | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| F. White... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. Avery | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

On June 27th, I called a peal of Stedman Triples on the bells.



S. PETER'S, DRAYTON, BERKS.

| | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 3 1 22 | 1880 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | 3 1 8 | 1871 | " " |
| 3 | 4 0 10 | " | " " |
| 4 | 4 2 10 | " | " " |
| 5 | 4 2 20 | " | " " |
| 6 | 5 2 4 | " | " " |
| 7 | 7 0 7 | " | " " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 9 1 20 | 1880 | " " |

On December 27th, a band of the College Youths, from London, rang a peal of 5120 Kent Treble Bob Major at Drayton, in the morning, conducted by myself; and in the evening, five of this band, with five local men, rang a 5081 of Stedman Caters at Appleton, in 3h. 10m. :—

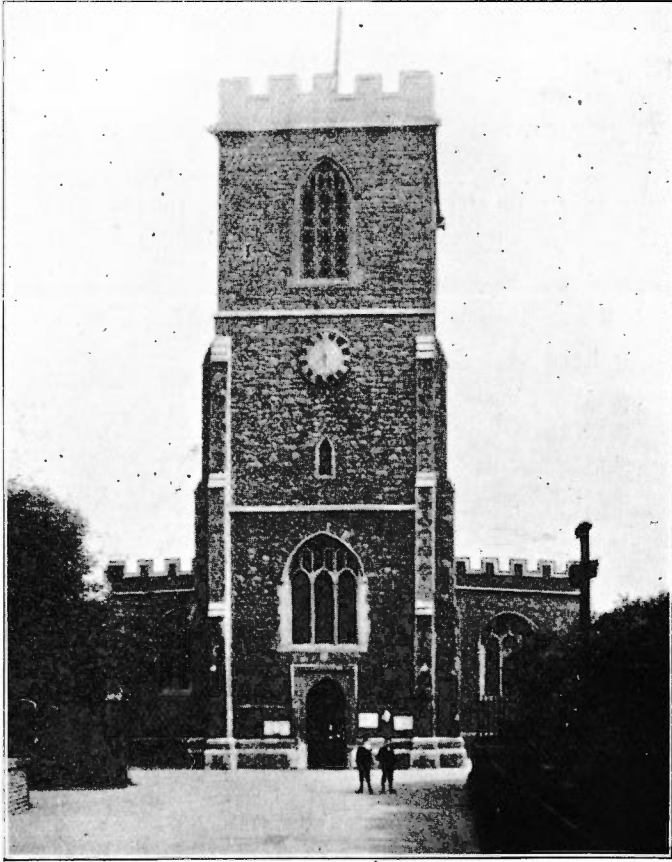
| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| J. Pettit (conductor) | Treble | M. A. Wood | 6 |
| G. Mash | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| G. Holifield | 3 | J. M. Hayes | 8 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | F. White... .. | 9 |
| B. Barrett | 5 | F. S. White | Tenor |

Shortly before, on December 13th, I had had the pleasure of calling 5001 Stedman Caters on the fine bells of S. Dunstan's, Stepney;—

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|-------|
| M. A. Wood | Treble | E. Gibbs... .. | 6 |
| W. Cooter | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 7 |
| J. Pettit | 3 | W. B. Fulford | 8 |
| R. French | 4 | J. M. Hayes | 9 |
| G. Dorrington | 5 | E. Horrex | Tenor |

On Tuesday, December 14th, I visited my old school, Winchester, and took part in the first 720 on the College bells. Our party (of College Youths) were to have opened the bells of Hursley, Mr. Keble's parish; but at the last moment the opening was unavoidably postponed. Among the party were Squire Proctor, of Benington, Mr. G. H. Phillott, and the Rev. A. D. Hill.





S. DUNSTAN'S, STEPNEY.

| | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | | | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|----|--|----------------|----|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 7 | 0 | 20 | | 6 | 11 | 2 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 7 | | 7 | 13 | 3 27 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 12 | | 8 | 17 | 16 0 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 14 | | 9 | 23 | 2 16 |
| 5 | 9 | 0 | 26 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 31 | 1 7 |

Cast in 1807 by T. Mears & Son.



CHAPTER II.

IN 1881, after a preliminary meeting held at Reading, November 13th, 1880, the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers was founded at Oxford on January 17th, of which I was appointed Master, and the Rev. Dolben Paul, of Bearwood, Wokingham, Secretary. I rang only three peals in that year, *viz.*, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Drayton, and two of Stedman Caters at Appleton, all conducted by me.

In 1882, I rang and conducted my first peal for the Oxford Guild, *viz.*, 5040 Stedman Triples at Drayton, on January 5th, the eve of my birthday:—

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| F. White... | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | .. | ... | ... | 7 |
| G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 4 | F. S. White | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

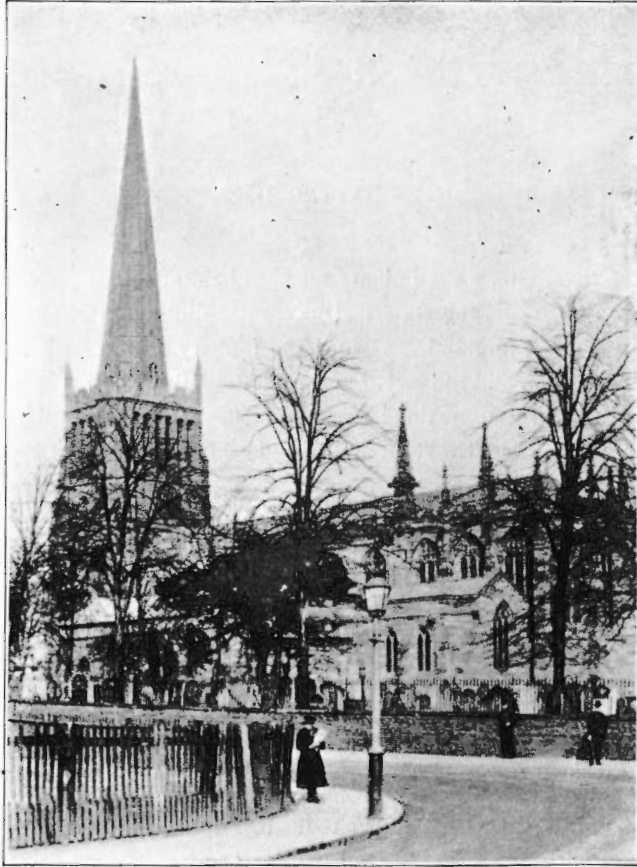
I conducted four other peals in that year: two of Stedman Triples, and two of Stedman Caters.

The band at Boyne Hill for Stedman Triples, on December 26th, was as follows:—

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| J. R. Haworth ... | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | G. Dorington ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| R. Jameson ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Pettit... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| H. Boswell ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| M. A. Wood ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | W. Greenleaf | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

and in the peal of Stedman Caters, on June 6th, at Aston, near Birmingham, the celebrated Mr. H. Johnson rang.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| H. Bastable ... | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | J. Ruffery | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| J. Joynes ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| H. Johnson, sen. | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. Dunn | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| T. Miller ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | H. Johnson, jun. | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| S. Reeves ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | T. Reynolds | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



SS. PETER AND PAUL, ASTON, NEAR, BIRMINGHAM.

| | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 5 0 0 | 1814 | Mears & Son. |
| 2 | 5 2 0 | " | " " |
| 3 | 5 3 20 | 1776 | Pack & Chapman. |
| 4 | 6 2 11 | " | " " |
| 5 | 7 2 21 | " | " " |
| 6 | 8 2 16 | " | " " |
| 7 | 10 1 9 | " | " " |
| 8 | 11 0 24 | " | " " |
| 9 | 14 3 14 | " | " " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 20 | " | " " |



S. MARY, CHELTENHAM.

| | In. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 28 | 5 1 0 | 1833 | J. Rudhall. |
| 2 | 28 | 5 1 0 | 1883 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 3 | 31 | 6 0 12 | 1823 | J. Rudhall. |
| 4 | 31 | 6 2 2 | 1883 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 5 | 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 7 0 3 | 1823 | J. Rudhall. |
| 6 | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 8 1 3 | " | " |
| 7 | 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 2 26 | " | " |
| 8 | 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 12 15 0 | " | " |
| 9 | 45 | 15 0 25 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 51 | 22 2 16 | " | " |

On February 2nd I conducted the first peal (5040 Stedman Triples) rung by the Oxford University Society, at Drayton, in 3h. 1m.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| F. A. H. DuBoulay | Treble | C. C. Child | 5 |
| W. H. W. Poole | 2 | G. H. Phillott | 6 |
| Rev. A. D. Hill | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| G. F. Coleridge | 4 | J. F. Hastings | Tenor |

A peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton, on Nov. 20th, 1882, was the first in that method by the Oxford Guild.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| F. S. White | Treble | G. Holifield | 6 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 7 |
| F. White | 3 | J. Avery | 8 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | G. F. Coleridge | 9 |
| B. Barrett | 5 | T. Bennett | Tenor |

In 1883 I rang (on the treble) my first and only peal of Union Triples, at Drayton, on January 4th, with seven Appleton ringers. The peal was composed and conducted by G. Holifield. In the same year I conducted two peals of Stedman Caters: one on January 15th, with the College Youth band, at S. Clement Danes, Strand, London, in 3h. 29m. the other at Cheltenham (my first peal there).

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------|
| J. Belcher | Treble | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| G. H. Phillott | 2 | F. White | 8 |
| C. Hounslow | 3 | G. Acocks | 9 |
| F. Musty | 4 | H. Karn | } Tenor |
| G. Holifield | 5 | T. Bennett | |
| W. T. Pates | 6 | (Not going well.) | |

On October 1st, 1883, Mr. H. Johnson brought a band to Drayton, from Birmingham, for a peal of Stedman Triples.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| H. Johnson jun., | Treble | J. Buffery | 5 |
| J. Jacques | 2 | S. Reeves | 6 |
| H. Bastable | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 7 |
| H. Johnson, sen. | 4 | A. Thomas | Tenor |

An excellent peal, rung in 2h. 45m.

In 1883,* for the first time, I made one of a party for a week's ringing in Devonshire, composed as follows: Messrs. C. Hounslow, J. Field, and D. Francombe, from Oxford; R. French, J. W. Rowbotham, and H. Langdon, from London; Rev. F. E. Robinson, of Drayton, Berks; G. H. Phillott, Esq., of Cheltenham; and Mr. G. F. Coleridge. Great disappointment was felt at the non-appearance of Mr. J. W. Washbrook who was, literally at the last moment, prevented from coming; had he been present the company would have been complete in itself for Major ringing, without seeking extraneous help.

The London contingent arrived in Exeter on Saturday, August 25th, and commenced proceedings on Sunday by visiting the church of Upton Pyne, in which parish is the picturesque seat of the Right

* The account of this tour is abridged from the "Bell News."

Honourable Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P. for North Devon. The church contains a peal of six bells, a treble having lately been added by Taylor and Sons, of Loughborough; here, with the assistance of the Rev. J. S. Northcote, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung.

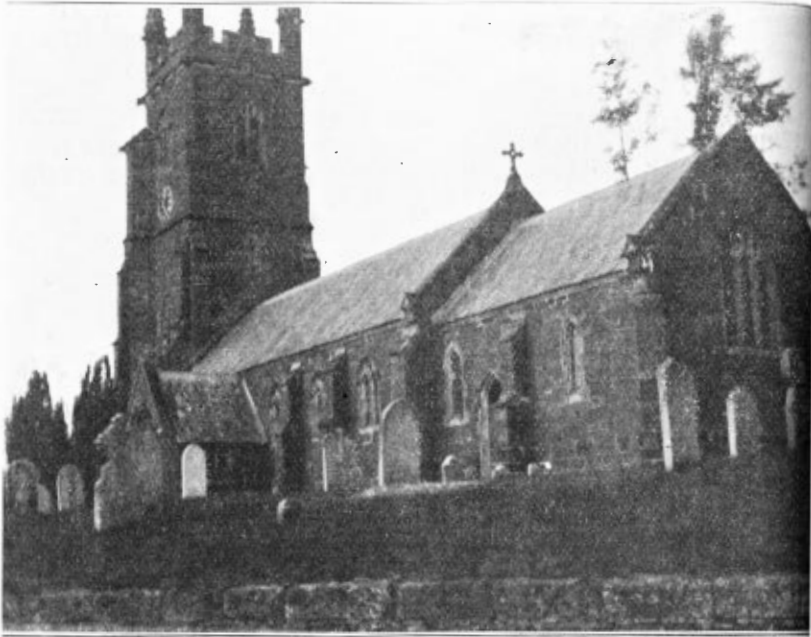
On Monday it was originally proposed to start for a peal of Stedman at Tiverton, a noble ring of eight; but the bells being in process of re-hanging by Mr. H. Boswell, the meet was changed to St. Sidwell's, Exeter. Here however no peal could be accomplished, owing to the fact that the St. Sidwell's men had fixed that day for their annual outing, and were accompanied by Messrs. French, Rowbotham and Langdon. The following places of interest were visited by them: Drewsteignton, Finglebridge, and Chagford. Doubles were rung at the first and Grandsire Triples at the last-mentioned place, where is a peal of eight, but in such bad order that only two short touches could be obtained, *viz.*, 336 and 210. Meanwhile the remainder of the party, who arrived in Exeter soon after two o'clock, were not idle, for a move being made to the Cathedral, the party ascended the south tower and examined the ring of 10 bells, tenor 67 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs. in B-flat, diameter $71\frac{1}{2}$ inches. So scientifically has this noble ring been constructed that beside the ring of ten in B-flat which it contains, of eight in B-flat, of six in B-flat, and six in F, it is capable of producing, by the introduction of an extra 4th bell in A-flat, three other rings, *viz.*, one of six in E-flat, one of eight in C-minor, and one of six in C-minor. The road to the belfry is a somewhat circuitous one, the architect, the late Sir Gilbert Scott, who was employed in the restoration, having stopped up the old convenient spiral staircase with 30,000 bricks. In the north tower is placed the celebrated "Great Peter," weighing 125 cwt. in A, on which the clock strikes and the curfew is tolled each evening at eight.

Having duly inspected the *heaviest* ringing peal of ten in England, the party proceeded across the Cathedral yard, and by the kind permission of Mr. Churchwarden King, rang at St. Petrock's, one of the *lightest* ring of six in England, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in $22\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. Tenor $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| D. Francombe | Treble | G. F. Coleridge | 4 |
| J. Field... .. | 2 | G. H. Phillott | 5 |
| C. Hounslow (conductor) ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | Tenor |

On Tuesday, a start was made from Exeter across the fields to Sowton, where is a most musical ring of eight, cast by Mears, and lately rehung by Mr. H. Stokes, of Woodbury. Permission having been previously obtained from the Rector, the Venble. Archdeacon Sanders, Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples was brought round true and complete in 2h. 43m., this being the first peal ever rung on the bells.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| J. Field... .. | Treble | C. Hounslow | 5 |
| R. French | 2 | J. W. Rowbotham | 6 |
| G. H. Phillott | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) ... | 7 |
| F. Coleridge | 4 | D. Francombe | Tenor |



S. MICHAEL, SOWTON, DEVON.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---------------|------|------|------|--|--------------|------|--------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 3 | 2 | 12 | | 5 | | 6 0 18 |
| 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | | 6 | | 6 1 25 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 22 | | 7 | | 6 3 0 |
| 4 | 4 | 3 | 24 | | <i>Tenor</i> | | 9 1 25 |

Cast in 1845 by C. & G. Mears.

A light ring of uniformly excellent quality of tone.

Starting from Sowton, tracks were made in the direction of Clyst S. George, to pay a visit to the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, well known for his great services to ringers and ringing. Passing through Clyst S. Mary, where are only three bells, the party traversed the park of Winslade, the lovely residence of Joshua Dixon, Esq., J.P., and shortly afterwards arrived at Clyst S. George, where they were heartily welcomed by the venerable rector, now in his ninety-sixth year, and whom everyone looks upon as the great nineteenth century purifier of belfries throughout England. A wooden model was shown by him, exemplifying the old fillet arrangement on the wheel, and also an invention of his own for preventing the wearing of the rope at the wheel. This met with universal commendation, it being considered a vast improvement on all other plans. The principle has been made use of for many years by Mr. H.

Stokes, and is always fitted to his wheels. We know of cases where ropes have been constantly used for ten years or more, and though frequently broken at other places, yet never once have we known of a rope wearing at the wheel when this plan has been adopted. The tower possesses a ring of six bells, the treble having been placed there by the rector to the memory of the Prince Consort. On the tower arch are painted all the arms of the Lords of the Manor from the Conquest (1066) to the present time, thus fulfilling the maxim—"Honour to whom honour is due."

After bidding a hearty goodbye to Mr. Ellacombe, Topsham was reached, and train taken for Exeter. Here we were met by the remainder of the S. Sidwell's men, and touches of Grandsire were rung, finishing the evening with a nicely struck touch of 504 Stedman Triples.

On Wednesday we proceeded by train to Torquay, for the purpose of ringing at S. Mary's church. Holt's Original was started for, C. Hounslow, conductor, but after ringing for 2h. 23m., the striking throughout being faultless, it came to an untimely end. The disappointment, however, was quickly got over, everyone being delighted with the tower, the bells, and the masterly manner in which they had been hung by Messrs. Hooper and Stokes, of Woodbury, about seven years before; not the slightest exertion being required in ringing. The belfry is a perfect pattern of what such a place should be, the windows being so arranged that a copious supply of fresh air is admitted, and yet not the slightest draught was felt. The bells themselves are a fine peal of 8, tenor about 19-cwt., cast by Warner & Son, and placed in the tower which was erected to the memory of Henry Phillpotts, Lord Bishop of Exeter, who lies buried in the churchyard. On the return journey, having no handbells with them, four of the party accomplished a course of Grandsire Triples in dumb show with their fists; supposed to be the first in the method on the South Devon Railway.

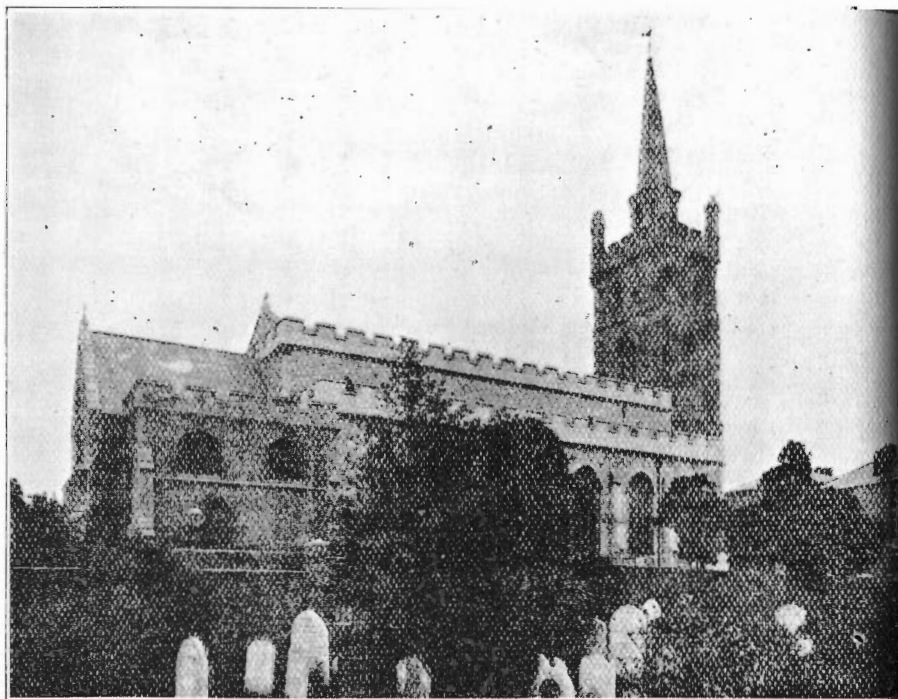
Thursday saw the party assembled at Tiverton, when two dog-carts were obtained, and a start made for Huntsham. After a pleasant drive through the valley of the Lowman, Huntsham was reached, where we were met by Mr. H. Tucker, and entertained by him, Lt.-Col. Troyte being abroad at the time. A peal of 5120 Treble Bob was then attempted, with the assistance of Mr. H. Payne, of Huntsham, but after ringing for 2h. 29m. it came to grief. The party were again hospitably entertained by Mr. Tucker and Mr. Payne, to whom their best thanks are due for their kindness. Returning to Tiverton, some handbell ringing was done at the house of Mr. Cruwys Sharland.

The morning of Friday was chiefly occupied with handbell ringing at Rosebank, Miss E. Cruwys Sharland taking part in some double-handed Stedman and Grandsire Caters. It is right to say that the Tiverton ringers owe much of their success to the assiduous teaching of this gifted lady, who spends several hours weekly in teaching beginners methods which they afterwards practise in the tower. In the afternoon the band

assembled at S. Sidwell's, Exeter, a splendid peal of eight, tenor 23 cwt 3 qrs. 2 lbs. in D, cast by Pack & Chapman, where a capital peal of Stedman Triples was rung.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------------|---------|
| J. Field... .. | ... | ... | ... | Treble | G. F. Coleridge | 6 |
| R. French | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 7 |
| J. W. Rowbotham | ... | ... | ... | 3 | F. Shepherd | } Tenor |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 4 | D. Francombe | |
| G. H. Phillott | ... | ... | ... | 5 | | |

First peal of Stedman rung in Exeter. An excellent peal rung on a grand ring of bells, afterwards augmented to ten (as below).

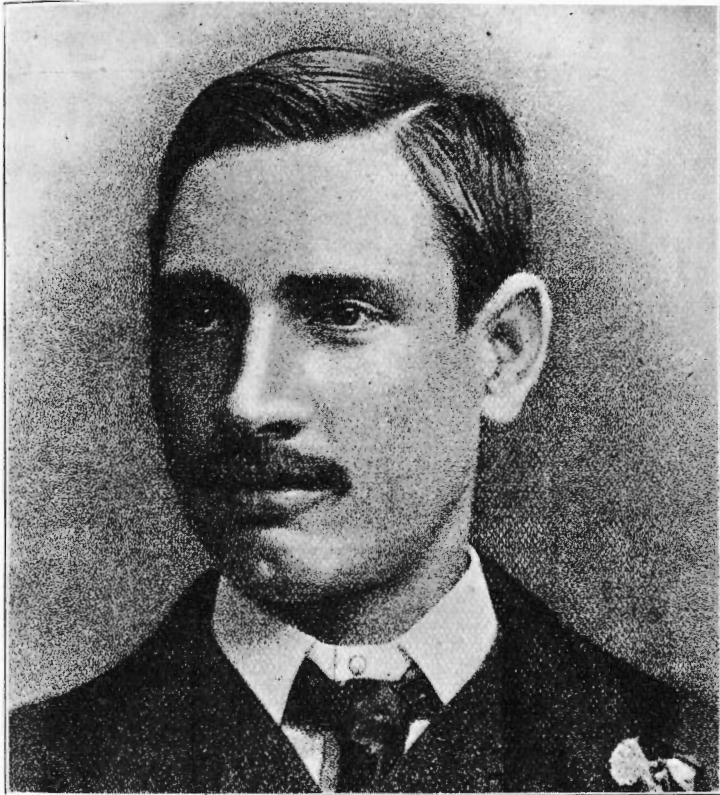


S. SIDWELL, EXETER.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|------|------|-------|-------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 5 | 2 | 27 | 1891 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 2 | 6 | 0 | 12 | " | " " |
| 3 | 6 | 3 | 24 | 1773 | Pack & Chapman. |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 23 | " | " " |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 18 | " | " " |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | " | " " |
| 7 | 10 | 0 | 11 | " | " " |
| 8 | 14 | 0 | 17 | " | " " |
| 9 | 16 | 3 | 24 | " | " " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 23 | 3 | 2 | " | " " |

Thus my score in 1883 was seven peals, six of which I conducted.

I preached at the Annual Meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association on October 8th, 1883, at S. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on Psalm cl. 5, and on December 6th at Compton, Berks, on the same text.



MR. J. W. WASHBROOK.

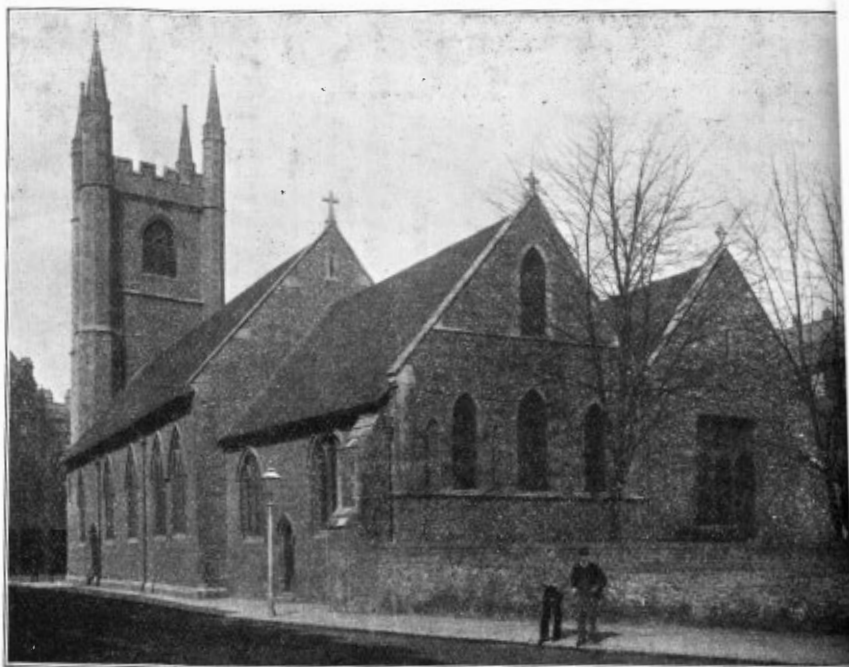
In February, 1884, I rang my first peal with that eminent ringer, Mr. J. W. Washbrook, *viz.*, Grandsire Triples, at Drayton, on February 23rd.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| T. Short | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | H. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| F. A. H. DuBoulay | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Brown | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 3 | I. W. Washbrook (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| C. W. H. Griffiths | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. Higgs | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On March 4th I conducted 5035 Stedman Caters at Appleton, and on April 19th I rang my first peal of Double Norwich (5088) at Drayton—the first rung by the Oxford Guild.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| S. Hounslow | Treble | J. W. Washbrook | 5 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | G. Holifield | 6 |
| B. Barrett | 3 | C. Hounslow | 7 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (cond.) ... | Tenor |

An excellent peal rung in 3h. 12m.

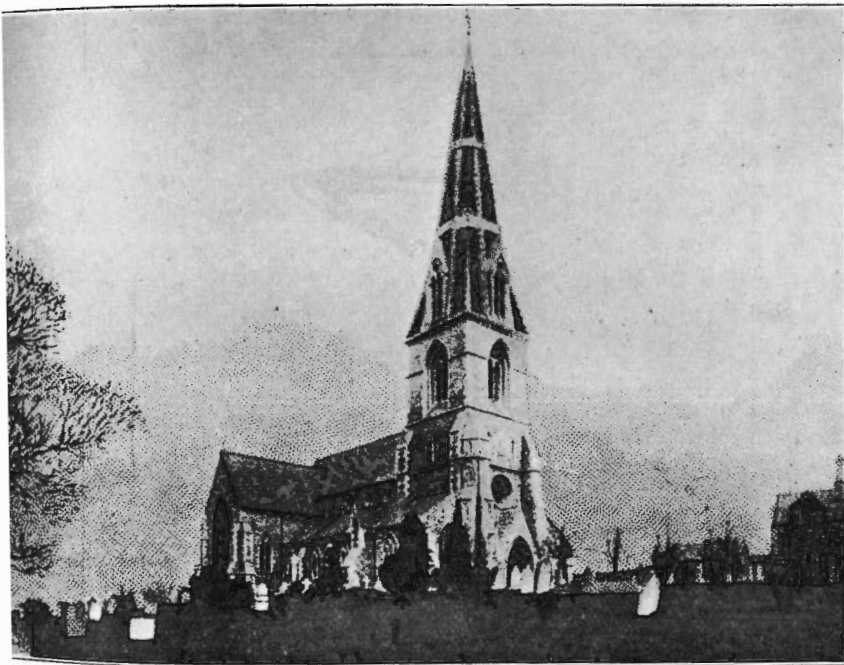


S. LAURENCE, READING.

| | In. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 27 | 4 3 0 | 1748 | R. Catlin |
| 2 | 28½ | 5 1 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 30 | 6 0 0 | " | " |
| 4 | 30½ | 6 2 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 33 | 7 2 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 36½ | 10 0 0 | 1882 | J. Taylor & Son |
| 7 | 39 | 11 2 0 | " | " " |
| 8 | 41 | 12 2 0 | 1803 | Thos. Mears |
| 9 | 45 | 16 0 0 | 1793 | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 51 | 24 0 0 | 1882 | J. Taylor & Son |

In 1884 I rang my first peal in Reading, viz., 5079 Stedman Caters, at S. Laurence's church, on August 4th.

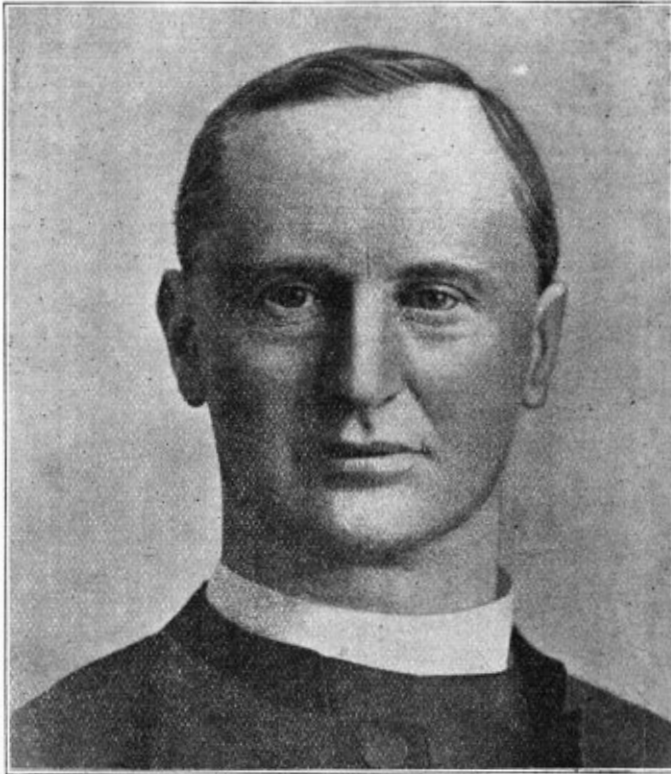
| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| S. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | Treble | J. M. Routh | ... | ... | 6 |
| F. E. Dawe | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (cond.) ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. G. F. Coleridge | ... | ... | 8 |
| J. Field | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | 9 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 5 | W. Newell | ... | ... | Tenor |



CHRIST CHURCH, SWINDON.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|--------|-----|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| Treble | 28 | 5 0 0 | 1881 | Llewellyn & James |
| 2 | 29 | 5 2 0 | " | " " |
| 3 | 31½ | 6 1 0 | 1741 | Abel Rudhall |
| 4 | 33 | 7 0 0 | " | " " |
| 5 | 34½ | 8 0 0 | " | " " |
| 6 | 36 | 9 0 0 | " | " " |
| 7 | 38½ | 10 0 0 | " | " " |
| Tenor | 44 | 14 0 0 | 1844 | C. & G. Mears |

On September 4th I rang my first peal in Wiltshire (with an Oxford Guild band), at Swindon, *viz.*, Grandsire Triples, conducted by G. Holfield. The first peal on the bells, lately augmented to eight.



REV. C. D. P. DAVIES, M.A.

Rector of Fretherne, Gloucestershire; Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association.

On October 2nd, 1884, I had the great pleasure of conducting the first, and as yet [1904] the only, clerical peal ever rung, *viz.*, Stedman Triples, at Drayton, in 2h. 51m.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Rev. G. F. Coleridge ... | ... <i>Treble</i> | Rev. C. C. Child ... | ... 5 |
| Rev. F. A. H. DuBoulay ... | ... 2 | Rev. C. D. P. Davies ... | ... 6 |
| Rev. A. D. Hill ... | ... 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (cond.) ... | ... 7 |
| Rev. W. S. Willett ... | ... 4 | Rev. J. H. Fish... .. | ... <i>Tenor</i> |

The ringing began with a short office said by the conductor, and concluded with the "Grace." In the afternoon the same band attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original), conducted by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, which came to an untimely end through the breaking of a rope.

Sympathetic reference to the "Parsons' peal" was made by the *Church Times* and one or two other papers: but on the whole it attracted little notice—less, it may be hoped, than would be the case now, when Churchpeople, though still far too apathetic, have been aroused to take more interest in bells and bell-ringing, and "ringing parsons" are a less isolated and abnormal phenomenon than they were a generation ago.

In January, 1884, having made the acquaintance of L. Proctor, Esq., of Benington, I paid my first visit to him. No peals were rung, but several good touches were brought round, the striking of the Benington band being excellent. While there we paid a visit to Hertford, thus described in *Church Bells*:—"On Wednesday, L. Proctor, Esq., of Benington, visited Hertford with his well-known band of ringers, who were joined by Messrs. Haworth, Pettit, and Winny, of London. The company met at All Saints' church, and the day's ringing was opened by a touch of 759 Stedman Caters, conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, of Drayton, Berks. Amongst the other touches rung during the day were 880 Kent Treble Bob Royal, 560 Double Norwich Court, and 448 each of London and Superlative Surprise Major; in all, upwards of 4000 changes were brought round during the day. The ringers present were, with those mentioned, the Rev. G. Proctor, and Messrs. T. Page, C. Shambrook, Jos. Kitchener, S. Page, L. Chapman, J. Kitchener, and N. Warner, of Benington; Messrs. T. Powell and W. A. Alps, of Waltham Abbey; the Rev. Woolmore Wigram, and Messrs. A. Baker, H. Baker, F. G. Crawley, T. Gathard, &c., of the local ringers; and Mr Lewis, of St. Albans."

On October 30th, 1884, I visited Salisbury for the re-opening of the bells at S. Edmund's church, augmented from six to eight; the new treble having been purchased by public subscription, and the 2nd presented by a member of the S. Edmund's company—both cast by Mears and Stainbank. We rang 1008 Grandsire Triples, and some shorter touches.



BENINGTON, HERTS.

In November, 1884, I visited Hertfordshire again, conducting 5079 Stedman Caters at S. Clement Danes, Strand, London, on my way down, on November 10th.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|---|
| J. W. Rowbotham | Treble | H. Baker * | ... | 6 |
| Rev. G. F. Coleridge | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | 7 |
| F. E. Dawe | 3 | R. French | ... | 8 |
| C. F. Winny | 4 | W. D. Smith | ... | 9 |
| W. Weatherstone * | 5 | W. H. Judd * | Tenor | |

*First peal in the method.



S. PETER, BENINGTON.

| | n. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 27½ | 4 1 0 | 1853 | C. & G. Mears |
| 2 | 28¾ | 4 2 0 | " | " " |
| 3 | 30 | 5 0 0 | 1792 | J. Briant |
| 4 | 31 | 5 1 0 | 1853 | C. & G. Mears |
| 5 | 32½ | 5 3 0 | 1630 | M. Graye |
| 6 | 34 | 7 0 0 | 1777 | Pack & Chapman |
| 7 | 37 | 8 2 0 | 1626 | " " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 42 | 12 0 0 | 1724 | J. Waylett |

On November 11th I conducted the first peal of Stedman Triples rung at S. Andrew's, Hertford.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Jasper G. Crawley * | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | H. Baker | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Rev. G. F. Coleridge | ... | ... | 2 | H. J. Tucker | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| W. A. Alps | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Rev. W. Wigram * | ... | ... | 4 | F. George | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

* First peal in the method.



S. ANDREW, HERTFORD.

| | In. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 30 | 5 0 0 | 1782 | J. Briant |
| 2 | 32 | 6 0 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 33 | 6 2 0 | 1876 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 4 | 34 | 7 0 0 | 1782 | J. Briant |
| 5 | 35 | 7 2 0 | 1797 | " |
| 6 | 36 | 8 0 0 | 1793 | " |
| 7 | 39½ | 10 0 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 44½ | 16 1 0 | 1797 | " |

On November 13th we rang 5056 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Sawbridgeworth, in 3h. 28m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| H. Prior | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | J. Tarling | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Rev. G. F. Coleridge | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| H. Baker | ... | ... | ... | 3 | N. W. Tarling | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| F. Sworder | ... | ... | ... | 4 | H. J. Tucker (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



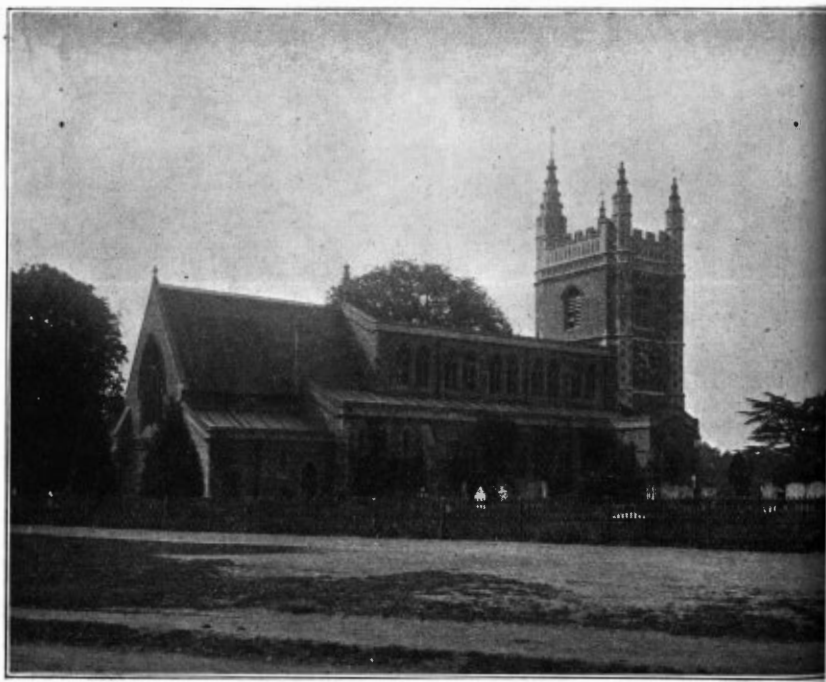
S. MARY, SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date | Founders |
|---------------|-----|----------------|------|-----------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 31 | 5 2 0 | 1871 | J. Taylor |
| 2 | 32½ | 6 2 0 | 1872 | " |
| 3 | 34 | 7 0 0 | 1749 | T. Lester |
| 4 | 37½ | 8 2 0 | 1870 | J. Taylor |
| 5 | 39½ | 10 1 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 43½ | 13 0 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 46 | 16 0 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 52 | 24 0 0 | 1795 | J. Briant |

In September, 1884, the bells at Beaconsfield, Bucks, were augmented to eight, six new ones being made Mears & Stainbank, to match the treble and 5th of the old ring by Thomas Mears: the result being an excellent ring of superior tone. After the opening service for the restored tower, and for dedication of the bells, I assisted in conducting short touches, limited to 20 minutes each. The first peal on the bells, Stedman Triples, was rung on December 26th, in 3h. 2m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| J. Field | ... | ... | ... | Treble | W. Finch | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. M. Routh | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| W. Barton | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| S. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 4 | O. Thomas | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

A most excellent performance.



S. MICHAEL, BEACONSFIELD.

| | in. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | in. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | |
|----------------|-----|------|------|------|--|----------------|------|------|------|----|
| <i>Treble</i> | 30 | 6 | 0 | 12 | | 5 | 38½ | 10 | 1 | 18 |
| 2 (old treble) | 31 | 6 | 1 | 16 | | 6 (old 5th) | 41 | 12 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 33 | 7 | 1 | 3 | | 7 | 44½ | 15 | 3 | 24 |
| 4 | 35 | 8 | 1 | 26 | | Tenor (E-flat) | 49½ | 21 | 1 | 7 |

Thus in 1884 I rang 11 peals—in Berks, Herts, Middlesex, and Wilts—conducting seven of them myself.



S. PAUL, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. |
|---------------|------|----------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 29½ | 6 2 4 | | 5 | 38¾ |
| 2 | 30¾ | 7 1 9 | | 6 | 40½ |
| 3 | 33¼ | 7 1 25 | | 7 | 45¾ |
| 4 | 35¾ | 9 3 9 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 51¾ |
| | | | | | 25 3 21 |

All cast in 1872 by J. Taylor & Co. The peculiar feature of this ring is, that with all this weight of metal, the note of the tenor (F) is only half a tone flatter than that of the Privett tenor, not half its weight.

I preached in 1884 at Great Marlow, on July 22nd, at the Annual Meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, from Psalm cl., 5. On August 18th at S. Mary, Redcliffe, Bristol, from the same text, to a congregation of not more than 20 persons, at the Annual Meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol Association; and on October 25th at Pangbourne, at the Annual Meeting of the Bradfield Deanery branch of the Oxford Guild, from I Corinthians, x, 3.

In January, 1885, having practised Superlative Surprise at Benington, Herts, I went to Burton-on-Trent, and on the 16th I rang my first peal—5088—in that queen of methods, in 3h. 23m., at S. Paul's church, being the 9th peal of Superlative ever rung.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| H. Wakley | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. T. Stone | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Jaggard | ... | ... | 6 |
| A. Wakley | ... | ... | ... | 3 | T. Holmes | ... | ... | 7 |
| J. Griffin | ... | ... | ... | 4 | W. Wakley (conductor) | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On April 14th I conducted for the first time Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in 3h. 1m., at Appleton, having employed Loiset's method of artificial memory in getting up the calling.

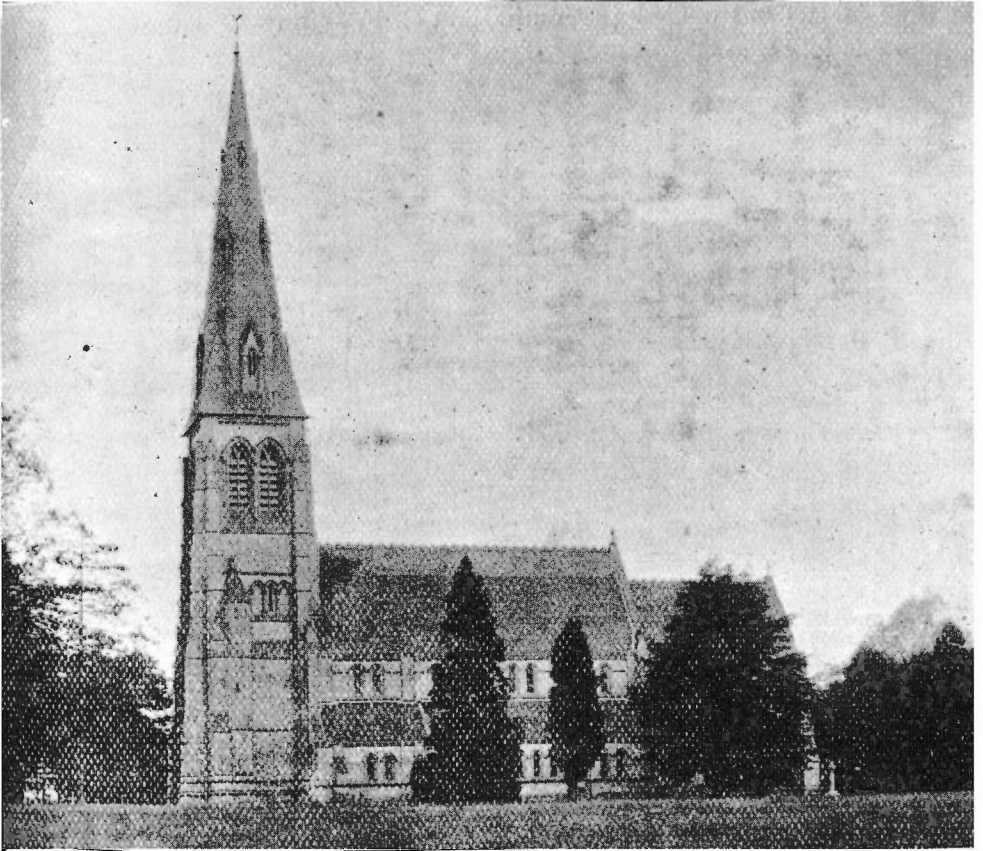
| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|--------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| F. Webb | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | G. Holifield | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. White | ... | ... | 6 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | W. Bennett | ... | ... | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 4 | F. S. White | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On July 7th I conducted the same peal on that musical ring at Privett, Hants: my first peal on those fine bells.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| G. Sayer | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | G. H. Barrett | ... | ... | 5 |
| C. Boxall | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | 6 |
| G. H. Childs | ... | ... | ... | 3 | S. Brooker | ... | ... | 7 |
| G. Williams | ... | ... | ... | 4 | E. Clapshaw | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On October 2nd I had the satisfaction of conducting a 5120 of Superlative Surprise on my own bells at Drayton, in 3h. 13m., being the first peal in the method rung by an incumbent on his own bells.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| J. Avery | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | W. Bennett | ... | ... | 5 |
| J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | ... | 2 | G. Holifield | ... | ... | 6 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | C. Hounslow | ... | ... | 7 |
| J. Field | ... | ... | ... | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



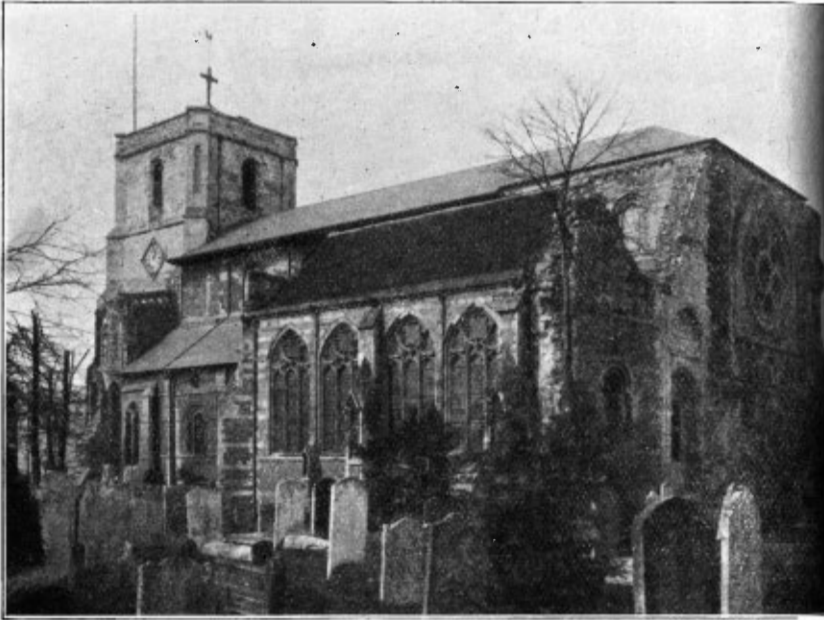
HOLY TRINITY, PRIVETT.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---------------|------|------|------|--------------|------|------|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 4 | 0 | 17 | | 5 | 6 | 0 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 2 | 27 | | 6 | 7 | 1 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | | 7 | 9 | 0 21 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | <i>Tenor</i> | 12 | 0 | 15 |

All cast in 1877 by Mears & Stainbank.

The best bells of the weight I ever heard.

In November, 1885, I spent a pleasant week with Canon Wigram at Hertford, ringing five peals on five successive days. The ringers were Canon Wigram, myself, the Revs. C. D. P. Davies and G. F. Coleridge, with Messrs. H. Baker, H. J. Tucker, and other members of the Hertfordshire Association, and (for the last day only) Messrs. J. M. Routh, then Master of the College Youths, and C. F. Winny. The peals rung were as follow :—



WALTHAM ABBEY.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. | | in. | cwt. qrs. |
|---------------|-----|-----------|--|--------------|-----------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 30 | 5 0 | | 5 | 35½ |
| 2 | 31 | 5 2 | | 6 | 38 |
| 3 | 32 | 6 0 | | 7 | 42¾ |
| 4 | 33 | 6 2 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 48 |
| | | | | | 20 0 |

Cast in 1806 by John Brient.

(1)—November 16th, at Waltham Abbey, 6016 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3h. 59m., conducted by H. J. Tucker. During the last half hour of this peal the 3rd bell was silent, the clapper having broken. In consequence of this the College Youths made a rule that peals in which all the bells do not speak all the time should not be recorded as true peals.

(2)—November 17th, at S. Andrew's, Hertford, a peal of Stedman Triples (the first by the Hertfordshire Association) conducted by W. A. Alps.

(3)—November 18th, at Benington, 5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 3 hours—my first peal there, which I had the pleasure of conducting.

(4)—November 19th, at Bishops Stortford, 5093 Grandsire Caters, in 3h. 29m., conducted by H. J. Tucker. During the last half-hour of this peal darkness came on, and, there being no artificial light, the peal was finished with difficulty. The first on the bells since 1820.

(5)—November 20th, at All Saints, Hertford, a peal of Stedman Caters, with the bells muffled in memory of the late Jasper Snowdon, conducted by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies.

In 1885, besides the 9 peals above mentioned, I rang in a peal of Stedman Caters, at Appleton, on March 4th, and one of Stedman Triples at Drayton, on June 11th, conducted by Mr. Washbrook, who had called his first peal of Stedman Triples at Drayton on February 7th, in which I did not ring.

I preached at the re-opening of the bells at Winslow, Bucks, July 16th, 1885, from Ps. 84, 7; on a similar occasion at Cumnor, Berks, November 15th, from ii Chron. 24, 13; and at Finchampstead, Berks December 8th, from i Chron. 29, 14.

On August 22nd, 1885, I visited my friend the Rev. George Murray at Shrivenham, and helped to re-open his bells, which had been rehung by Messrs. Bond, of Burford. We rang a peal of 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, and a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| W. Smith | Treble | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 4 |
| C. Hounslow | 2 | W. Finch | 5 |
| F. Castle | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) ... | Tenor |

Tenor about 16 cwt.

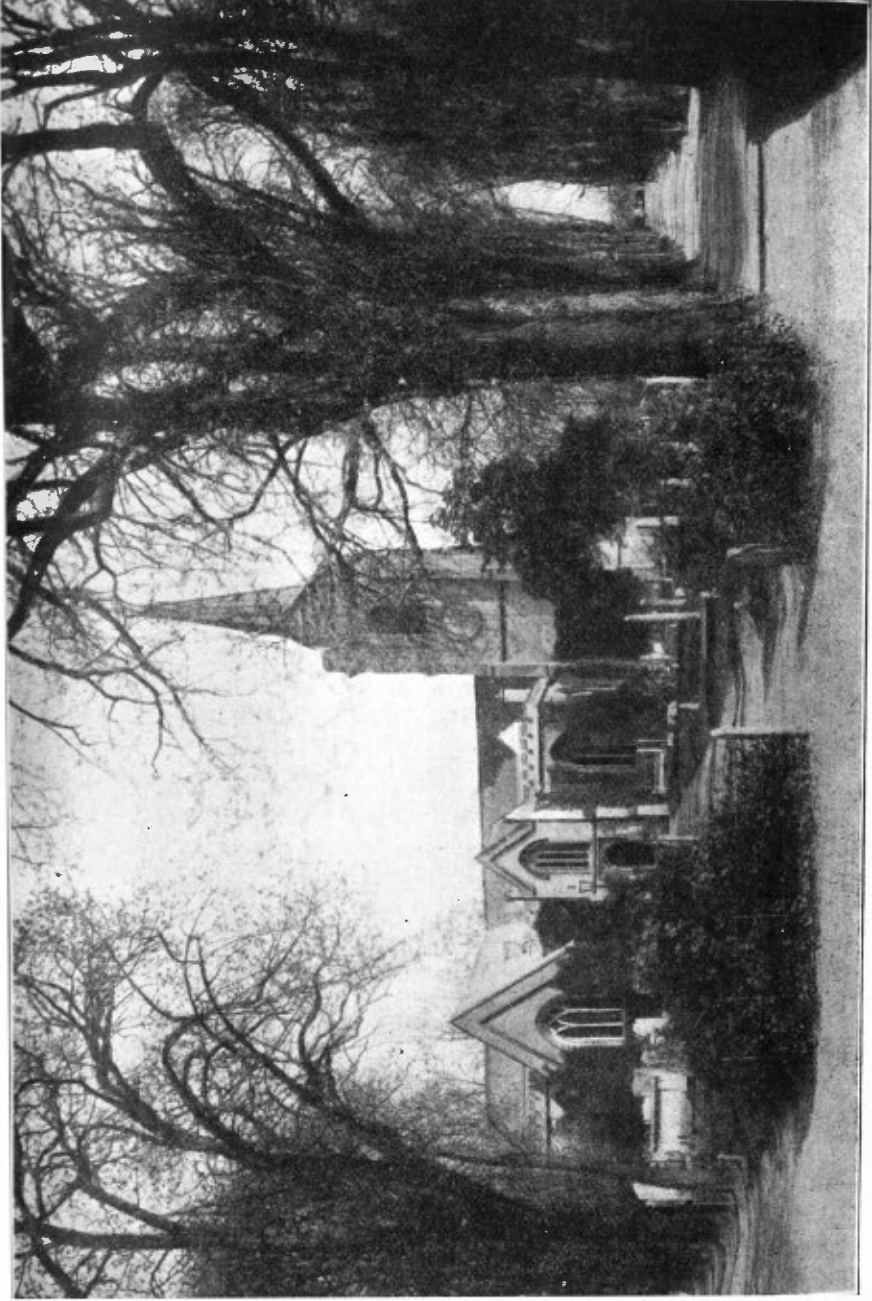
The bells were found to go and strike very well.



S. MICHAEL, BISHOP STORTFORD.

| | In. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 4 0 0 | 1820 | J. Briant. |
| 2 | 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 4 0 20 | " | " |
| 3 | 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 4 2 0 | 1791 | " |
| 4 | 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 4 3 0 | 1713 | J. Waylett. |
| 5 | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 5 3 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 34 | 7 0 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 8 0 0 | 1791 | J. Briant. |
| 8 | 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 0 0 | 1802 | " |
| 9 | 42 | 12 0 0 | 1791 | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 17 0 0 | 1730 | J. Waylett. |

Waylett assisted S. Knight, of Reading, whose foundry was in S. Andrew's Holborn, (*Stahlschmidt, Church Bells of Herts.*)



The Old Church,

ALL SAINTS, HERTFORD.

[Since destroyed by fire.]

ALL SAINTS, HERTFORD.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 29½ | 4 3 0 | 1791 | J. Briant. |
| 2 | 30 | 5 0 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 31 | 5 2 0 | 1771 | Pack & Chapman. |
| 4 | 32 | 6 0 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 33¼ | 6 2 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 36 | 8 0 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 39 | 10 0 0 | " | " |
| 8 | 40¾ | 11 0 0 | " | " |
| 9 | 44½ | 14 2 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 49 | 20 0 0 | " | " |

These bells were melted in the fire.

On November 28th I went to the opening of a new ring of eight bells at Hagley, Worcestershire, the Rector being my friend the Rev. W. C. Gibbs, late Vicar of Abingdon. Having to return home I could not ring in the opening peal of Stedman Triples, by members of the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham. The bells, which are very sweetly toned, were cast and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. I spent a whole day at the Whitechapel Foundry, tuning these bells.

The following extracts from the "Bell News" are interesting, as they describe the gradual progress made by the Appleton band in learning Double Norwich Major and Superlative:—

"On Wednesday, March 4th, 1885, the Appleton company celebrated their anniversary by ringing, at the parish church, a peal of Stedman Caters. A 336 of Double Norwich was also rung by the following.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| F. Castle | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery | 5 |
| J. W. Washbrook | 2 | G. Holifield | 6 |
| B. Barrett... .. | 3 | A. F. M. Custance, Esq. | 7 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | <i>Tenor</i> |

"Also a 504 of Stedman Triples.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| F. Castle | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery | 5 |
| J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 6 |
| B. Barrett | 3 | A. F. M. Custance, Esq. | 7 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | D. Napper... .. | <i>Tenor</i> |

"APPLETON (Berks.)—On Friday, March 13th, 1885, for practice, 336 of Double Norwich."

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| E. Holifield | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery | 5 |
| J. W. Washbrook | 2 | G. Holifield | 6 |
| B. Barrett... .. | 3 | A. F. M. Custance, Esq. | 7 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | <i>Tenor</i> |

“ Also three plain courses of Superlative Surprise Major.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| J. Avery | <i>Treble</i> | W. Bennett | 5 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | C. Holifield | 6 |
| B. Barrett | 3 | A. F. M. Custance, Esq. | 7 |
| J. W. Washbrook | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | <i>Tenor</i> |

“ And on Monday, March 16th, a plain course of College Single Major.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| F. Webb | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery | 5 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | G. Holifield | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | 3 | A. F. M. Custance, Esq. | 7 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | <i>Tenor</i> |

“ Also two plain courses and a touch of 672 Superlative Surprise Major.”

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| J. Avery | <i>Treble</i> | W. Bennett | 5 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | C. Holifield | 6 |
| B. Barrett | 3 | A. F. M. Custance, Esq. | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | <i>Tenor</i> |

A band of the Oxford Guild visited Taunton, Somerset, on June 25th, 1885, at the opening of the augmented peal of ten bells, the trebles having been made by Messrs. Taylor, and the tenor, a grand bell, by George Mears & Co., 31 cwt., 1 qr., 14 lbs., cast in 1861.

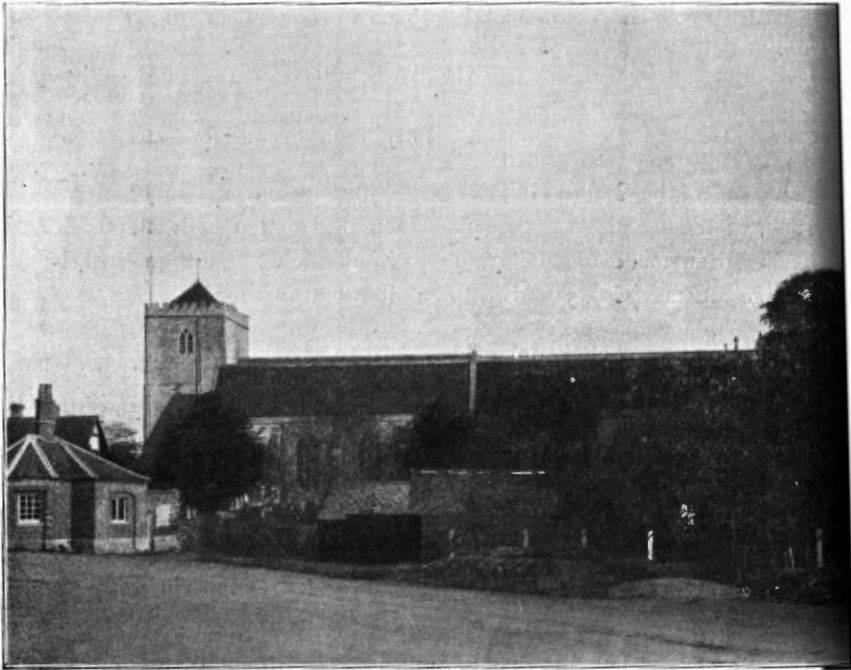
We rang a peal of Stedman Caters, 5079 changes, in 3h. and 22m. The peal, however, turned out to be false, and was therefore excluded from the Guild Report; but meanwhile one of the band, without my sanction, sent it to the “Bell News” for publication. I failed in my duty by not publicly retracting it at the time, but, the matter cropping up again seven years afterwards, I then made amends by the following letter in the “Bell News” of March 26th, 1892, headed “A LENTEN CONFESSION.” “Sir,—The present season being the proper time for penitential acts, I write to acknowledge my error in the matter of ringing at S. Mary’s, Taunton, in June, 1885. Having sufficient reason for denying it a place as a peal in our Guild Report, I ought also to have disowned it when it appeared in your paper under that description. This, however, I failed to do, and for this neglect of duty I now express my regret.”

1886 was a busier one for me than any previous one, 23 peals being accomplished by me. On January 30th I took part in the first peal of Stedman Triples rung at Dorchester Abbey Church—that grand old shrine.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| H. D. Betheridge | <i>Treble</i> | C. Hounslow | 5 |
| Rev. F. A. H. DuBoulay | 2 | Rev. G. F. Coleridge | 6 |
| H. J. Castle | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | 4 | Dennis Napper | <i>Tenor</i> |

On February 9th, a visit from Members of the Oxford University Society, on the occasion of their anniversary, produced an excellent peal of Stedman Triples at Drayton, being the third rung by that Society.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Rev. G. F. Coleridge (Keble) ... | <i>Treble</i> | G. H. Phillott (Ch. Ch.) ... | 5 |
| Rev. F. A. H. DuBoulay (Keble) ... | 2 | J. M. Routh (Magdalen) ... | 6 |
| Rev. W. S. Willett (Oriol) ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (Exeter, con.) | 7 |
| Rev. C. D. P. Davies (Pembroke) ... | 4 | A. F. M. Custance (R.N.C.) ... | <i>Tenor</i> ! |



S. S. PETER AND PAUL, DORCHESTER, OXON.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date | Founders |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 29 | 5 1 0 | 1868 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | 29 | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 30 | 6 0 0 | 1651 | " |
| 4 | 32 | 6 3 0 | 1603 | H. Knight. |
| 5 | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 2 0 | 1606 | " |
| 6 | 37 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 9 3 0 | 1591 | " |
| 7 | 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 11 0 0 | 1320 | Cast in London. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 45 | 15 0 0 | 1380 | " Wokingham. |

On February 27th I rang in the first peal of Stedman Triples ever rung in Reading, at S. Mary's Church, which came round in 3h. 10m.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----|----------------------|-----|--------------|
| J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | <i>Treble</i> | T. Newman | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| W. H. Fussell | ... | ... | 2 | C. Hounslow | ... | 6 |
| H. Egby | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. G. F. Coleridge | ... | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 4 | T. Harvey... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. MARY'S CHURCH, READING.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. bs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|---------------|-------|----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 32 | 6 2 0 | 1740 | Robert Catlin. |
| 2 | 33 | 7 0 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 35½ | 8 2 0 | 1640 | W.M. |
| 4 | 37½ | 9 2 0 | " | R. Catlin. |
| 5 | 40 | 20 0 0 | 1743 | " |
| 6 | 46½ | 16 2 0 | " | G. Mears & Co. |
| 7 | 48 | 20 0 0 | 1863 | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 55 | 28 0 0 | 1640 | " |

On March 2nd I attended, and spoke at, a meeting at Hereford which resulted in the formation of an Association of Change Ringers for that Diocese.

On March 4th a peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Drayton, as the Appleton anniversary could not be held that year at Appleton; and on May 5th I conducted Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples in 2h. 50m. (The first time that peal was called by an Incumbent upon his own bells.)

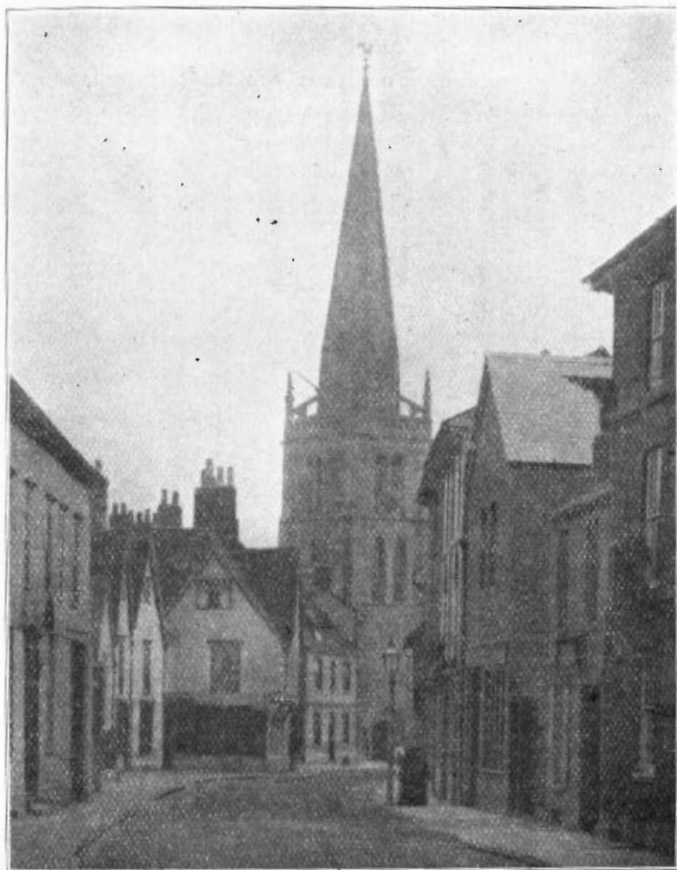
On May 1st the bells of St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, were re-opened, after augmentation to 10, the trebles being made by Mears & Stainbank, and the old 7th and tenor recast by them, a fine ring being the result. Tenor 1 ton. The Holy Communion was celebrated at 8 a.m.; Matins was sung at 11.15; a course of Grandsire Caters being rung after the dedicatory prayers, by the Oxford Diocesan Guild. A sermon by the Bishop of Oxford followed, and as the congregation dispersed three courses of Stedman Caters were rung by the guild. After luncheon at the new Corn Exchange, a peal of Stedman Caters was attempted by the guild, but as the 11th course was being rung at 55 minutes from the start, it became evident that three and a half hours ringing the ninth and tenor would be too severe a task even for the able men who had undertaken it, and the attempt had to be abandoned.

A successful attempt, however, to ring the same peal was made on May 29th, when Mr. H. Johnson's 5079 of Stedman Caters was brought round in 3h. 32m.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|--------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| H. D. Betheridge | ... | ... | Treble | S. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F.E. Robinson (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | 3 | W. J. Smith | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| H. J. Castle | ... | ... | 4 | Rev. G. F. Coleridge | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| F. A. Castle | ... | ... | 5 | W. Jeffery | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

Two peals of Double Norwich were conducted at Drayton in one week by Mr. Washbrook, viz:—one on June 7th, and the other on June 12th, the ringers being Mr. Betteridge and 5 of his men from Drayton, Oxon, Mr. Washbrook, and myself.

On June 24th I went to Courteenhall, Northants, to make an attempt to organize a Society for the whole diocese of Peterborough by amalgamating one or two Associations already in existence. Archdeacon Thicknesse presided at the meeting, but it was unsuccessful, and there is still (1904) no Diocesan Association for Peterborough.

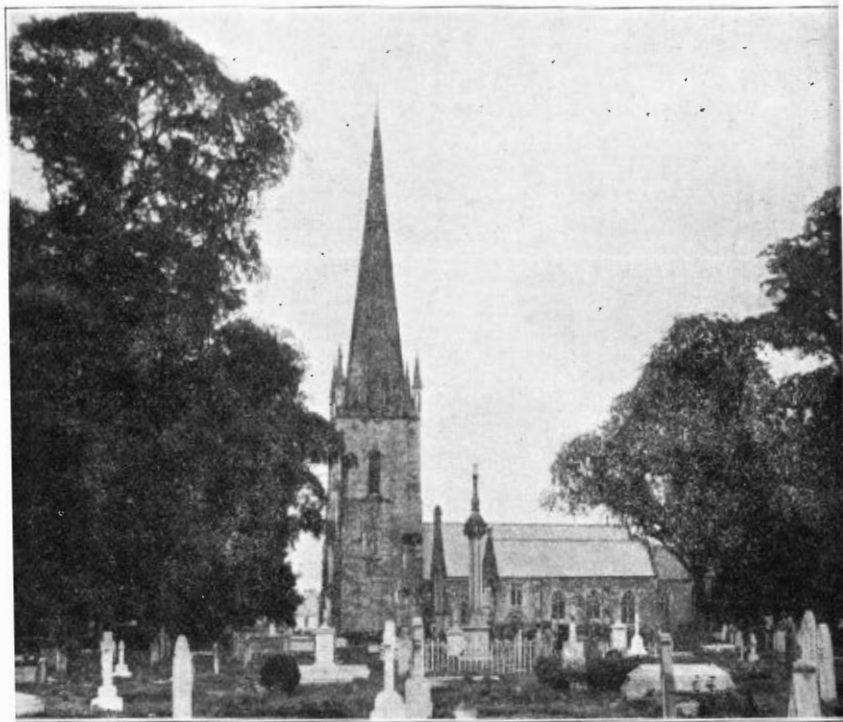


S. HELEN'S, ABINGDON.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders |
|---------------|------|------|------|-------|-------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 4 | 3 | 12 | 1885 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | " | " " |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1764 | Lester & Pack |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 | " | " " |
| 5 | 7 | 0 | 24 | 1885 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 6 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1764 | Lester & Pack |
| 7 | 9 | 0 | 15 | " | " " |
| 8 | 10 | 2 | 18 | " | " " |
| 9 | 14 | 2 | 23 | 1885 | Mears & Stainbank |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 20 | 0 | 6 | " | " " |

On July 12th, 1886, it fell to my lot to conduct Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, under the beautiful spire of S. Mary's Church, Ross, Herefordshire, in 3h. 4m.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| H. Bird | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 5 |
| W. Honeyfield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | A. F. M. Custance | 6 |
| W. Atkins | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook | 7 |
| J. Wall | ... | ... | ... | 4 | R. Clarke | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. MARY'S, ROSS, HEREFORD.

| | In. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|----------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 30 | 6 0 0 | 1761 | Abraham Rudhall III. |
| 2 | 30½ | 6 1 0 | " | " " |
| 3 | 32½ | 7 1 0 | " | " " |
| 4 | 35 | 8 3 0 | " | " " |
| 5 | 38 | 10 0 0 | " | " " |
| 6 | 40½ | 12 1 0 | " | " " |
| 7 | 45 | 15 0 0 | " | " " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 50¼ | 23 0 0 | 1770 | " " |

And on August 4th I was again successful with the same peal at Reigate, Surrey, in 3h. 7m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| G. Croucher | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | W. Argent | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| F. T. Hoad | ... | ... | ... | 2 | E. Moses | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| F. Linter | .. | ... | ... | 3 | W. Webb | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | | | 4 | | E. Kenward | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. MARY MAGDALENE, REIGATE, SURREY.

| | cwt. qr. lbs. | | | | cwt. qrs lbs. | | |
|---------------|---------------|---|----|--|---------------|----|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 5 | 0 | 2 | | 6 | 8 | 3 13 |
| 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | | 7 | 10 | 2 26 |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | 2 | | 8 | 11 | 3 20 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 17 | | 9 | 14 | 2 2 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 7 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 19 | 3 2 |

The back eight were cast in 1784 by William Mears.
The two Trebles were cast in 1899 by Mears & Stainbank.

On August 5th, having made the acquaintance of Dr. A. B. Carpenter, of Croydon, I had the pleasure of ringing my first peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal with him on the musical ten at Beddington, Surrey, in 3h. 25m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| J. Harris | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | W. Burkin | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| E. Bennett (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Plowman | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Dr. Carpenter | ... | ... | ... | 3 | C. Bance | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| G. Welling | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. Trappitt | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 5 | C. Gordon | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

The first peal in the method rung by the Surrey Association.



S. MARY'S, BEDDINGTON.

| | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | | | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|----|--|----------------|----|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 5 | 1 | 2 | | 6 | 8 | 0 16 |
| 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | | 7 | 10 | 0 10 |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | 17 | | 8 | 12 | 0 0 |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | 7 | | 9 | 13 | 3 13 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 15 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 20 | 1 14 |

The back eight were cast in 1869 and Trebles in 1877 by Mears & Stainbank.

On October 8th, at the invitation of A. P. Heywood, Esq., (now Sir Arthur P. Heywood, Bart.,) I visited Duffield and rang on the bells there my first and only peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, in 3h. 5m.

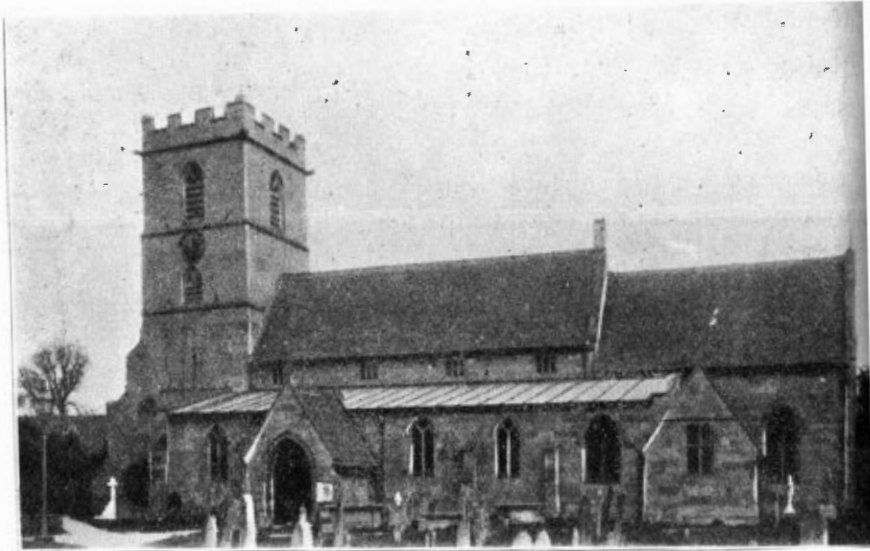
| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| G. Dawson | ... | ... | ... | Treble | G. Hingley | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. Moreton | ... | ... | ... | 2 | John Howe | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| S. Johnson | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| H. C. Woodward | ... | ... | ... | 4 | A. P. Heywood (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | Tenor |

On August 1st I had visited Kingswood, Surrey, and rung some 720's on the fine-toned ring of six; and on August 18th, on the invitation of "Squire" Proctor, I spent a pleasant day at Braughing, Herts, with the Saffron Walden and Benington companies, ringing touches of Stedman, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob Major, and Superlative Surprise on the melodious ring of eight there, and also at the neighbouring village of Aspenden. In the evening the Saffron Walden company rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major upon the Braughing bells. These were increased by the addition of two trebles in 1745, cast by Robert Catlin, a "College Youth" of that day; and it is known that the College Youths rang peals here at an early date.

On October 2nd, at the invitation of the Yorkshire Association, I attended their Annual Festival at Birstal, and preached from Ps. 29, "Give unto the Lord the honour due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty (*lit.* the ornaments) of holiness;" emphasizing God's claim for worship on the bellringer, whose office is to use one of the ornaments of holiness for calling the faithful to worship—from which, if the ringer himself turns away, it is a pitiful contradiction.

[To drive this lesson home is the duty and the privilege of all clerical ringers, who for this reason alone, if for no other, deserve more recognition and encouragement from Diocesan authorities and their fellow clergy.]

In 1886 I attended bell-opening ceremonies at Abingdon, Appleford, Prestbury, and Winkfield. Those at Prestbury are perhaps worth recording, because the opening peal was attempted by a band of eight clergymen, and accomplished by one in which only the tenor man was a layman; the seven clergymen being all in Priest's Orders, whereas, in the clerical peal at Drayton two years before, (see p. 38) some of the band were only in Deacon's Orders.



S. MARY, PRESTBURY, CHELTENHAM.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | — | 5 1 11 | 1886 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | — | 5 1 18 | " | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 3 | 30 | 5 2 0 | 1748 | Abel Rudhall. |
| 4 | 31½ | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 33 | 6 2 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 35 | 7 2 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 39 | 10 0 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 42½ | 12 1 0 | " | " |

Originally, there were six bells in the church tower—as musical and as well rung as any in the county—but after the induction of a new vicar, the Rev. F. Gurney, a scheme was set on foot for completing the octave, and, two new trebles having been cast by Mears and Stainbank, the whole were re-hung by Day & Son, of Eye, Suffolk. The work being finished (I now quote from a newspaper account) it was arranged to open the new peal on October 13th, the Feast of the Translation of King Edward the Confessor. For this purpose there were invited eight clergymen, adepts in the art of change ringing, viz :—Rev. J. U. Todd, (Dunster, Somerset,) a member of the Royal Cumberland Society ; Rev.

C. D. P. Davies (Redmarley, Gloucester); Rev. A. D. Hill (Downton, Wilts); Rev. F. A. H. DuBoulay (Heddington, Wilts); Rev. Canon Wigram (Hertford); Rev. H. A. Cockey (Dunster, Somerset); Rev. F. E. Robinson (Drayton, Berks); and Rev. G. F. Coleridge (Caversham, Oxon); all members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. These, at 8 a.m., attended the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and at 10 a.m. the Dedication Service, taken from the "Change Ringers' Guide" and "Priests' Prayer Book." The choir, and clergy mentioned above, remained in their stalls while the vicar performed the actual dedication ceremony. During the singing of Dr. Neale's hymn—

Now, at length, our bells are mounted
In their holy place on high;
Ever to fulfil their mission
Midway 'twixt the earth and sky—

the vicar, attended by the sacristan, ascended to the bell-chamber, and sprinkled the bells with water, reciting the allotted prayers. A few rounds were then rung by the local ringers previous to the sermon, preached by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, who, taking for his text Psalm lxxxiv. 7, "They will go from strength to strength," spoke first of the service which was being held, and then urged his hearers to take that opportunity for re-dedicating themselves, body, soul, and spirit, not only that day, but every day of their lives to the Lord, who made them holy. A hymn having been sung, and the blessing given, the clergy above named ascended to the belfry with a view to attempting a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples.

The usual short office previous to a peal having been said, the peal was commenced, but unfortunately came to grief, after ringing some 1500 changes in fifty minutes.

After Evensong the same band again attempted the peal, but were again unsuccessful, as, after ringing more than an hour and a half, what is known in technical language as "a shift" occurred, and the bells "ran round at hand." Nothing daunted, however, they determined to try again, and at 9 a.m. on the following day, all assembled in the tower, with the exception of the Rev. A. D. Hill, who was obliged to carry out an important preaching engagement at Salisbury Cathedral.

His place, therefore, was kindly taken by Mr. G. H. Phillott. Standing in the following order Holt's Original Peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in good style in 2h. 51m.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Rev. F. A. H. DuBoulay ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. H. A. Cockey ... | 5 |
| Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor) | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson ... | 6 |
| Rev. J. V. Todd ... | 3 | Rev. G. F. Coleridge ... | 7 |
| Rev. Canon Wigram ... | 4 | Mr. G. H. Phillott ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On the same evening, October 14th, an excellent peal of 5035 Stedman Caters was conducted by me at Cheltenham.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| W. Morris (aged 76) ... | <i>Treble</i> | F. E. Ward ... | 6 |
| G. H. Phillott ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 7 |
| F. Day ... | 3 | W. T. Pates ... | 8 |
| Rev. G. F. Coleridge ... | 4 | Rev. C. D. P. Davies ... | 9 |
| H. Roberts ... | 5 | A. Humphreys ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

In November, Canon Wigram again invited us to Hertford. We were unfortunate at Fulham owing to the breaking of a rope, but we scored five peals during the week, viz:—Stedman Triples at S. Andrew's on the 9th, and at Tottenham on the 13th; 5088 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Hounslow, on the 10th; 5088 Superlative on the 12th at Benington; and I had the pleasure of conducting my first peal at Braughing, viz:—5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 3h. 5m.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| S. Slater ... | <i>Treble</i> | F. Pitstow ... | 5 |
| J. F. Penning ... | 2 | Rev. C. D. P. Davies ... | 6 |
| G. Martin ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook ... | 7 |
| H. Baker ... | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | <i>Tenor</i> |

In 1886 I inspected the bells at Chalgrove, Ewelme, Culham, Milton and Wallingford (Berks), Holywell, Oxford; S. Nicolas, Abingdon; Wooton, Northants; S. Edmund's, Northampton; Aylesbury; Kirtlington; Thatcham; Newbury and Kingswood, and gave advice as to re-hanging, &c. 398 hours of my time were occupied in bellringing in 1886.

In 1887, owing to the increasing skill of Mr. Washbrook (a veritable ringing genius) as conductor, I rang a larger number of peals than in any previous year, viz:—34; 10 of which were conducted by me, and 24 by Mr. Washbrook.

In February I arranged a few days' ringing in my own neighbourhood, in which Mr. (now Sir) A. Percival Heywood, the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, and Mr. H. Baker (of Hertford) took part. We had two unsuccessful attempts for Superlative Surprise at Dorchester, (Oxon), and Stedman at Hagbourne (lost through a rope slipping the wheel); and secured four peals:—

(1) February 14th, at S. Helen's, Abingdon, 5184 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 3h. 15m. Conductor—J. W. Washbrook.

(2) February 15th, at Dorchester, 5040 Stedman Triples. Conductor—J. W. Washbrook.

(3) February 16th, at Drayton, 5088 Superlative Surprise, in 3h. Conductor—Rev. F. E. Robinson.

(4) February 18th, at Appleton, 5024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 3h. 4m. Conductor—J. W. Washbrook.

On February 21st I took part in the first peal of Stedman Triples on the beautiful bells of Henley-on-Thames, conducted (for the first time, it is believed) from the tenor by J. W. Washbrook.

On March 1st we rang at Appleton the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, in 3h. 8m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| F. White | ... | ... | ... | Treble | W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | ... | 3 | G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | | | | Tenor |

A very excellent performance; and on March 29th I conducted the first peal of Superlative Surprise Major on those bells, the band being the same, except that W. Finch rang the treble.

On April 29th I rang my 100th peal, viz:—Stedman Triples at S. Helen's, Abingdon (first peal of Stedman on the bells) in 2h. 52m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|---|
| F. Field | ... | ... | ... | Treble | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 5 | |
| J. H. Viner | ... | ... | ... | 2 | H. D. Betteridge | ... | ... | 6 | |
| T. Short | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | | | | 7 |
| W. Sandell | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. Brown | ... | ... | Tenor | |

On May 25th, 1887, I again conducted Holt's Original Peal of Grand-sire Triples at Drayton, in 2h. 55m., being the sixth and last time I ever called it.

On May 10th I went with Squire Proctor's men to the ringing anniversary at Braughing, Herts, held annually on that day without interruption since 1778.

On Saturday, June 14th, I rang in the first Jubilee peal for Queen Victoria, at Drayton.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| T. Fulker | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | T. Short | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| G. Jones | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Field | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Trinder | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 4 | W. Cobb | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



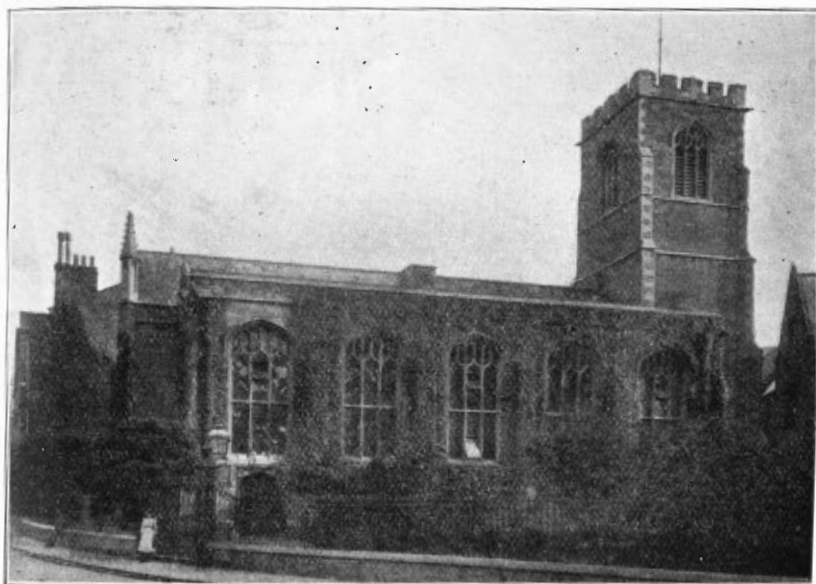
S. MARY, HENLEY-ON-THAMES.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---------------|------|------|------|--|--------------|------|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 6 | 2 | 7 | | 5 | 10 | 2 27 |
| 2 | 7 | 0 | 19 | | 6 | 11 | 2 11 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 19 | | 7 | 16 | 0 0 |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 4 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 22 | 2 10 |

Henley Bells were cast in 1813 by Thomas Mears, jun.

In this month we accepted an invitation to open the bells at Mildenhall, the vicar—the Rev. A. G. Livingstone—receiving us most kindly. We rang a peal of 5040 Stedman Triples on the bells there, which we did not count, as, owing to a trip made in the last six changes, the bells never came round.

On our way home through Cambridge on June 22nd, after attempting a peal of Stedman Caters at S. Mary's, we had the honour of ringing the first peal of Stedman Triples ever rung in Cambridge, at S. Andrew's Church, a feather in the cap for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Conducted by J. W. Washbrook.



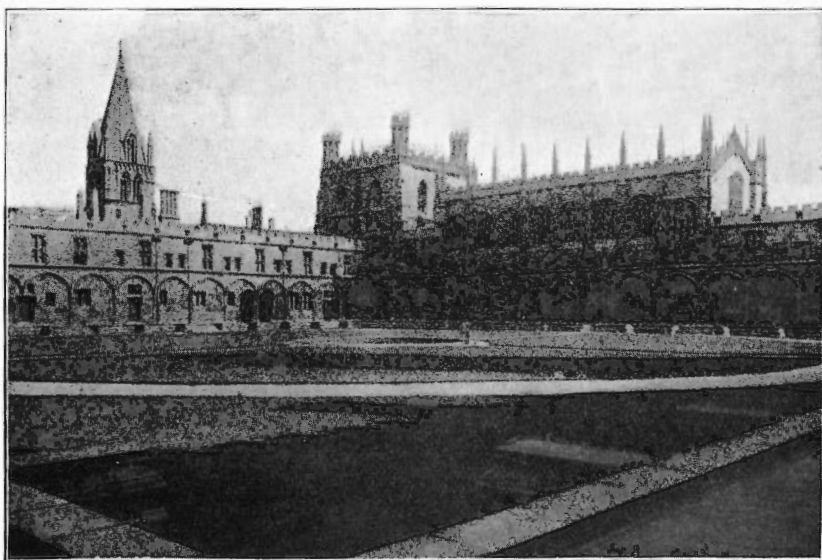
S. ANDREW THE GREAT, CAMBRIDGE.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 25 | 3 3 0 | 1856 | C. & G. Mears. |
| 2 | 26 | 4 1 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 27 | 4 3 0 | 1843 | Thos. Mears, Jun. |
| 4 | 29 | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 31 | 6 1 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 32 | 6 2 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 34 | 7 3 0 | 1667 | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 37 | 10 0 0 | 1722 | T. Newman. |

On July 30th we rang at Drayton 6048 Superlative Surprise Major in 3h. 52m., (longest in that method on the bells), composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

On August 10th that celebrated ringer, Mr. G. Williams, born at Droxford, Hants, afterwards of Brighton, rang his first peal of Stedman Triples at Drayton.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| H. Fruin | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | G. Williams | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| W. Wood | ... | ... | ... | 2 | A. Hind | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | .. | ... | ... | 3 | T. Payne | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | | | | 4 | J. West | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AND BELFRY, OXFORD, (from "Tom Quad.")

THE BELLS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.

| | In. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 26 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1897 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | 27 | 5 | 2 | 1 | " | " |
| 3 | 28 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1698 | Abraham Rudhall. |
| 4 | 29 | 6 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 31 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1747 | Abel Rudhall. |
| 6 | 32 | 6 | 3 | 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 35 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1646 | " |
| 8 | 37 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1897 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 9 | 41 | 11 | 2 | 0 | — | — |
| 10 | 46 | 16 | 1 | 0 | — | — |
| 11 | 50 | 21 | 1 | 0 | — | — |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 56 | 31 | 2 | 0 | — | — |

On September 6th the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, of Canterbury, rang his first peal of 5079 Stedman Caters at Appleton in 3h. 24m.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| F. White | Treble | W. Bennett | 6 |
| E. Holifield | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| Rev. F. J. O. Helmore | 3 | J. Avery | 8 |
| J. W. Washbrook | 4 | G. Holifield | 9 |
| B. Barrett | 5 | T. Bennett | Tenor |

In September the famous band of S. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, favoured us with a visit. They attempted peals of Cambridge Surprise and Superlative Surprise at Dorchester and Drayton without success. A peal of Stedman Caters at S. Helen's, Abingdon, also came to nought, but, with the help of some of us local men, a most brilliant peal of 5079 Stedman Caters was rung at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on September 14th, in the short space of 3h. 7½m.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|-------|
| J. Field | Treble | H. Wakley | 6 |
| A. Wakley | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | 3 | J. Jaggard | 8 |
| J. Griffin | 4 | W. Wakley | 9 |
| E. J. Stone | 5 | J. W. Washbrook | Tenor |

OXFORD CATHEDRAL—TEN BELLS. (Augmented to 12 in 1897.)

In the reign of King Henry VIII there was at Osney, near Oxford, a grand Abbey; in 1546 the last abbot was made a bishop, and the see transferred to Oxford. The conventual church at Oxford, dedicated to St. Frideswide, was constituted the Cathedral of the see, and called "Christ Church." At the same time, five bells belonging to the Abbey were removed to the Cathedral tower, and form the basis of the present fine ring of ten. The 2nd and 3rd bells of this venerable family of five are still in existence; from the marks on them they may be safely attributed to William Founder of London; the exact date of this worthy's work is not known, but by some it is put as early as 1450. The other three bells have been recast, first, the tenor in 1589, by a founder whom I cannot name; next the treble, in 1611, by William Yare, of the Whitechapel foundry; and last of all, the 4th, in 1640, by a founder whose initials are "A.R." He placed the inscription—"Prosperity to this College," on the bell, which is much in the style of inscriptions on bells from the Gloucester foundry, and one is tempted to set the bell as the work of A. Rudhall; but I believe it is many years older than the oldest bell by any known Rudhall. In the same year, 1640, a treble was added to the five, no doubt by the same hand. The trebles of the ten are by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, and are dated 1698, in which year no doubt the ring was completed; the 4th bears the initials, "A.R.," and is not dated, being the work of either Abraham or Abel Rudhall; the 3rd was cast in 1747, and is doubtless the work of Abel Rudhall. Thus at a very early date was completed this fine ring. Some years ago (perhaps twenty) fears were felt lest the bells should injure the cathedral tower, and they were accordingly taken down. To receive them a large square wooden structure was erected over the entrance to the College Hall, this was known as the "meat safe," and gave rise to numerous witticisms. It answered its purpose, however, for although the ringing room is somewhat noisy, the bells go well, and were shown to be pealable quite recently, the tenor being rung single-handed. The ugly square box has been hidden by an outside tower of stone, in a style of architecture to correspond with the surrounding buildings.

Mr. N. J. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, who took the time of this performance, pronounced that the peal was admirably struck throughout, and was in every way worthy to rank as a really high class feat, an opinion heartily endorsed by that veteran ringer, Mr. Thomas Hill, of Oxford, and others.

This was the first peal conducted by an incumbent on the bells of his Diocesan Cathedral.



ALL SAINTS, BLOXWICH.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---------------|------|------|------|--|--------------|------|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 4 | 2 | 16 | | 5 | 7 | 0 10 |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 8 | 0 26 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 17 | | 7 | 9 | 3 23 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 13 | 1 11 |

Bloxwich tenor was cast by Thomas Mears, Jun., in 1823, the other seven bells were cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1887.

On October 12th I went to the opening of a new ring of six bells, by Messrs. Gillett & Bland, of Croydon, at Fenny Stortford, Bucks, erected as a Royal Jubilee Memorial. It was at first proposed to melt down the one existing bell and make a new ring of six. A conservative Archdeacon, however, intervening to prevent the breaking up of the old bell, it was retained as the tenor of the new ring. The five new bells are very sweet in tone, and harmonize well with the old one.

On October 31st, 1887, with a band of the Staffordshire Association, I conducted the first peal of 5040 Stedman Triples at Bloxwich, Staffordshire, in 2h. 58m., at the dedication of the bells as a Jubilee Memorial. The tenor bell was already in the tower; five others were given by different individuals or families, and one by the Wesleyans of Bloxwich; and the children of the parish collected for the remaining bell.

On November 3rd I attended the re-opening of Twyford Church, Bucks, after partial restoration and rebuilding of the tower, and took part, with some members of the Oxford Guild, in some 720's on the six bells; but their "go" was very rough and heavy, the bell-frame having been merely shored up during the rebuilding, in order to save the expense of re-fitting and re-hanging.

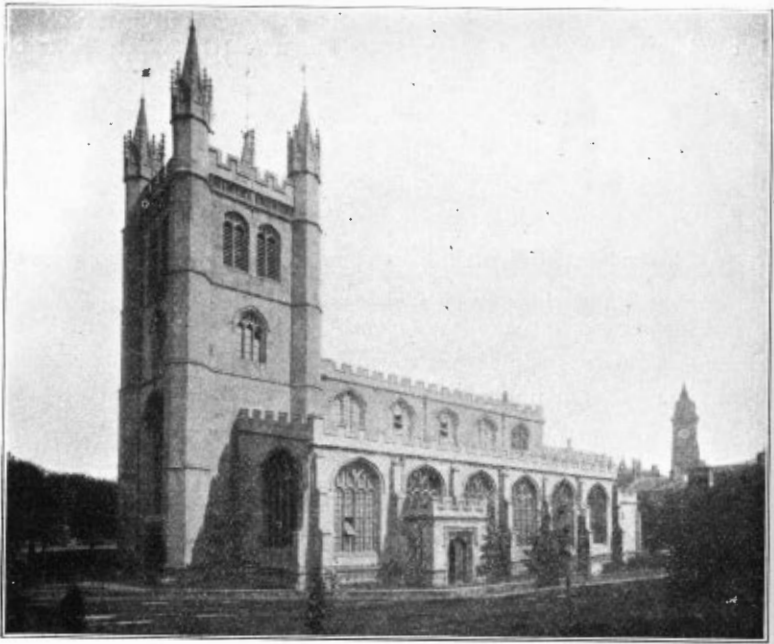
On November 24th I preached at the re-opening of the six bells at Harwell, Berks; and on November 26th I rang in the first peal—5040 Stedman Triples—on the bells of S. Nicholas, Newbury, in 3h. 3m.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | Treble | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 5 |
| F. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | G. Holifield | ... | ... | 6 |
| F. Field | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | ... | ... | 7 |
| H. D. Betteridge | ... | ... | ... | 4 | F. White | ... | ... | } Tenor |
| | | | | | F. S. White | ... | ... | |

The natives thought that 3 hours' ringing would be fatal to us, and were prepared to wager that we should not come out of the tower alive! One old woman patted me on the back, saying "Well, you be alive then; now, never do the like of that never no more."

I preached at Prestbury, October 13th, from Ps. 84, 7, and at Harwell, November 24th, from Exodus 28, 33-5. During the year I visited the towers of Chilton, Weedon, Harwell (twice), Thatcham, Kidlington, Twyford, Bray, South Hinksey, and Ilsley to give advice

and was present (as recorded above) at various bell-opening ceremonies. My year's tale of 34 peals comprised:—Grandsire Triples, 3; Caters, 2; Stedman Triples, 16; Caters, 3; Double Norwich Major, 6; Superlative Surprise, 3; Cambridge Surprise, 1. I occupied 359 hours in bell-ringing.



S. NICHOLAS, NEWBURY.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|--------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 30 | 6 0 0 | 1803 | James Wells. |
| 2 | 31 | 6 1 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 33 | 7 1 0 | " | " |
| 4 | 36 | 9 0 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 38½ | 10 2 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 41½ | 13 0 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 45 | 15 2 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 50½ | 22 2 0 | " | " |



CHAPTER III.

THE year 1888 was one of the very busiest in all my ringing career, as Mr. Washbrook at that period gave his whole time to bellringing. In it I rang 86 peals and amongst them four long lengths, viz:—10,080 Double Norwich, 12,041 Stedman Caters, 13,265 Grandsire Caters, and 15,041 Stedman Caters.

The 10,080 Double Norwich Court Bob Major was rung at Appleton on January 28th, in 5h. 58m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| F. White | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | J. Avery | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 3 | G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed and Conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

The 13,265 Grandsire Caters was rung at Appleton on April 11th, in 8h. 5m.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| E. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | F. White | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Avery | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| H. Baker | ... | ... | ... | 3 | G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 5 | F. S. White | ... | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed and Conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

The following reference to this long peal appeared in the *Bell News*: "As was seen by "THE BELL NEWS" of Saturday last, the above peal was successfully rung as announced in "THE BELL NEWS." "Go" was called at precisely 7.45, and "that's all" at 3.50, thus 8h. 5m. was occupied in ringing the peal. The striking was simply perfection from beginning to end, and not a word except "bob" spoken for hours at a stretch. This peal, which is the longest of any sort on ten bells, eclipses the long 12,000 rung at Painswick in which Mr. Giles Mansfield took part; this is the third longest peal accomplished by the Appleton Society during the last three months, viz., 10,080 of Double Norwich on January 28th; 12,041 of Stedman Caters on March 5th, and 13,265 of

Grandsire Caters on April 11th; and we sincerely hope some energetic band will carry these methods to a still higher number, and strike them as well as the peals rung by the Appleton Society."

THE PEAL, 13,265.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2 3 4 5 6 | | | | | |
| 3 2 4 5 6 | 7th in and out at 2 with D. | | | | |
| 2 4 3 5 6 | 9 8 7 | | | | |
| 6 5 4 2 3 | 7th in and out. | | | | |
| 2 5 4 6 3 | 7th in and out at 2 with D. | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 5 6 3 2 4 | 8th in and out and 7 8 s. | | | | |
| 3 6 4 2 5 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 4 6 5 2 3 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 6 5 4 2 3 | 7 8 | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 5 4 6 2 3 | 7 8 | | | | |
| 6 4 3 2 5 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 3 4 5 2 6 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 4 5 3 2 6 | 7 8 | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 5 3 4 2 6 | 7 8 | | | | |
| 4 3 6 2 5 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 6 3 5 2 4 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 3 5 6 2 4 | 7 8 | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 6 5 3 2 4 | 7 8 s | | | | |
| 3 5 4 2 6 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 4 5 6 2 3 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 5 6 4 2 3 | 7 8 | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 6 4 5 2 3 | 7 8 | | | | |
| 5 4 3 2 6 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 3 4 6 2 5 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 4 6 3 2 5 | 7 8 | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 6 3 4 2 5 | 7 8 | | | | |
| 4 3 5 2 6 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 5 3 6 2 4 | 8 9 | | | | |
| 3 6 5 2 4 | 7 8 | | | | |

The last twenty-four courses four times repeated produce 4 2 5 3 6 Round as usual. The above peal is reducible to any number.

On Monday, February 6th, I paid another visit to Canon Wigram, at Hertford, for a week's ringing, during which we rang eight peals in six days, viz:—

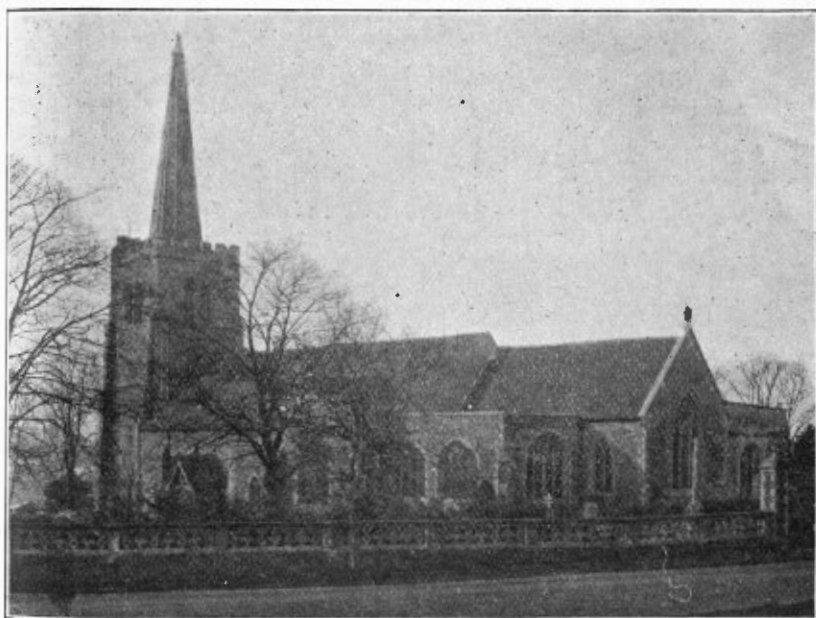
(1) February 6th, at All Saints, Hertford, 5021 Grandsire Caters, composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

(2) February 7th, at Benington, 5184 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook

(3) February 8th, at Braughing, I conducted for the first time a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, composed by Mr. N. J. Pitstow, and rung for the first time.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| E. Chapman | Treble | Herbert Baker | 5 |
| Rev. C. D. P. Davies... | 2 | Jabez Warner | 6 |
| J. W. Washbrook | 3 | G. Newson | 7 |
| L. Chapman | 4 | Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor) | Tenor |

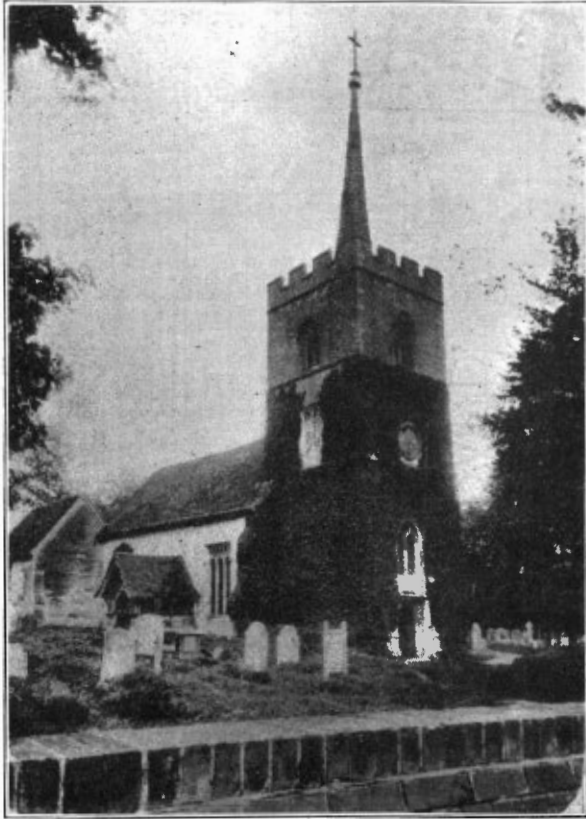
(4) February 9th, at S. Etheldreda's, Hatfield, a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by J. W. Washbrook (the first in this method on the bells.)



S. ETHELDREDA'S, HATFIELD.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 32½ | 6 2 0 | 1786 | J. Briant. |
| 2 | 33½ | 6 3 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 35 | 7 2 0 | " | " |
| 4 | 37 | 8 2 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 39 | 10 0 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 42 | 12 0 0 | 1841 | T. Mears. |
| 7 | 46 | 16 0 0 | 1786 | J. Briant. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 52 | 24 0 0 | " | " |

(5) February 9th, at S. Peter's, S. Albans, 5025 Stedman Caters composed by H. Johnson, sen., and conducted by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies



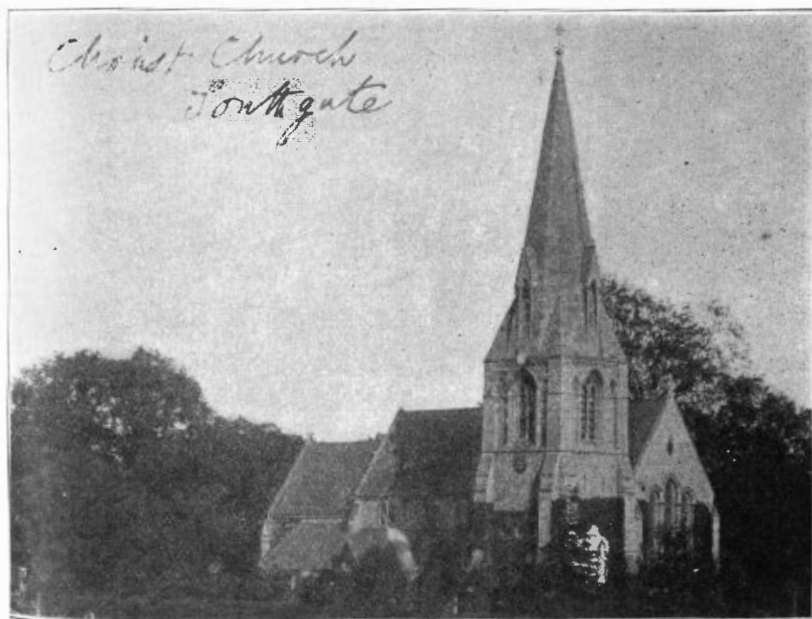
S. DUNSTAN'S, HUNSDON, HERTS.

| | In | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 28 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 1884 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 2 | 29 | 5 | 1 | 17 | " | " " |
| 3 | 31 | 5 | 3 | 1 | " | " " |
| 4 | 33 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1630 | " " |
| 5 | 34½ | 6 | 2 | 20 | 1884 | Mears & Stainbank. |
| 6 | 36 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 1787 | John Briant. |
| 7 | 40 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1668 | Bartlett. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 41½ | 14 | 1 | 0 | 1652 | " |

(6) February 10th, at Hunsdon, Herts, 5152 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook (the first in this method on the bells.)

(7) February 10th, also at Hunsdon, a peal of Stedman Triples, Brook's variation, conducted by H. Baker (first in this method on the bells.)

(8) February 11th, at Christ Church, Southgate, Middlesex, a peal of Stedman Triples (Brook's variation, reversed,) conducted by J. W. Washbrook.



CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE.

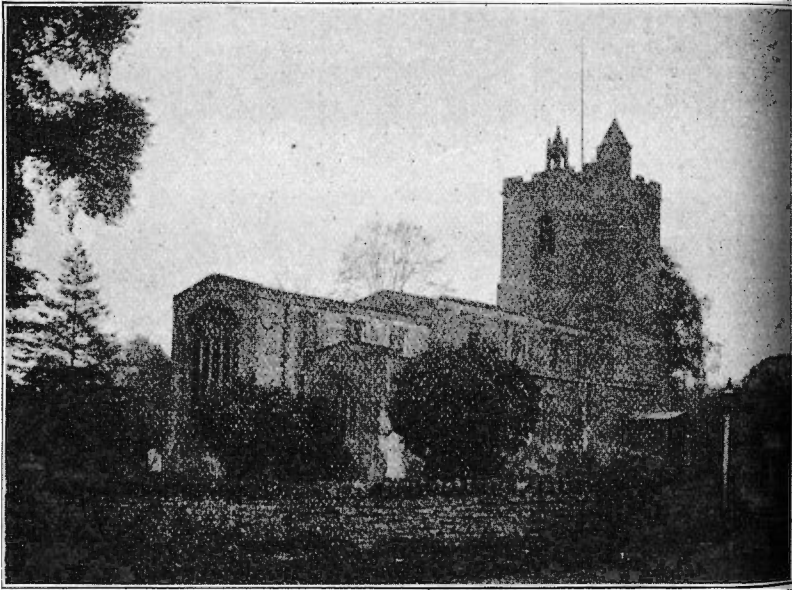
| | cwts. qrs. lbs. | | | | cwts. qrs. lbs. | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---|----|--|-----------------|----|---|----|
| <i>Treble</i> | 7 | 0 | 9 | | 5 | 11 | 2 | 24 |
| 2 | 7 | 2 | 17 | | 6 | 13 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 0 | | 7 | 17 | 2 | 23 |
| 4 | 10 | 0 | 24 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 24 | 3 | 7 |

Cast in 1874 by Mears & Stainbank.

Messrs. Baker, Davies, Washbrook and myself rang in all these peals, Mr. Ellsmore in five, and Canon Wigram in four. A most successful week's ringing.

On March 3rd I rang in the first peal of 5184 Double Norwich on the fine bells of S. Andrew's, Hagbourne, Berks, in 3h. 6m.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| T. Short | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 5 |
| F. Field | ... | ... | ... | 2 | H. Baker | ... | ... | 6 |
| H. D. Betteridge | .. | ... | ... | 3 | A. Thomas | ... | ... | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | .. | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | | | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. ANDREW'S, HAGBOURNE.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 31 | 6 0 0 | 1770 | R. Wells. |
| 2 | 32 | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 32 | 6 2 0 | 1602 | — |
| 4 | 36 | 9 0 0 | 1670 | — |
| 5 | 38 | 10 0 0 | 1641 | — |
| 6 | 41 | 13 3 0 | — | — |
| 7 | 45 | 16 0 0 | 1751 | Thomas Lester. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 49 | 21 2 0 | 1781 | R. Wells & Son. |

On March 5th the long peal of 12,041 Stedman Caters was rung in excellent style, at Appleton, in 7h. 26m.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| F. White | Treble | G. Holifield | 6 |
| G. H. Phillott | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| E. Holifield | 3 | J. Avery | 8 |
| W. Bennett | 4 | J. W. Washbrook | 9 |
| H. Baker | 5 | F. S. White | Tenor |

Composed and Conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

This was, at the time, a "record" length in that method, eclipsing that of 11,111 changes rung at Fulham by the College Youths, on December 8th, 1883.

The figures of this peal were :

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 3 1 4 5 6 | |
| 5 1 2 3 4 6 | Bobs at 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20. |
| 4 1 2 6 5 3 | 4, 5, 16 |
| 4 1 3 2 5 6 | 16 |
| 4 1 6 3 5 2 | 16 |
| 6 1 4 2 5 3 | 5, 16 |
| 6 1 3 4 5 2 | 16 |
| 6 1 2 3 5 4 | 16 |
| 2 1 6 4 5 3 | 5, 16 |
| 2 1 3 6 5 4 | 16 |
| 3 1 2 4 5 6 | 5, 16 |
| 3 1 6 2 5 4 | 16 |
| 3 1 4 6 5 2 | 16 |

These 11 courses 9 times repeated, with a single at 16 in the 10th course of the 5th and 10th parts, and bobs at 15, 18, 20, 21, 22 in the last course, produce rounds.

Omit bobs braced together in five parts.

In April we went to Wells, Somerset, to open the newly augmented ring of 8 bells at S. Cuthbert's Church.

On April 2nd we rang 5040 Stedman Triples there in 3h. This was the first peal ever rung in Wells.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|
| J. F. Hastings | Treble | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 5 |
| J. Field | 2 | T. Payne | 6 |
| S. Hounslow | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | 4 | W. Finch | Tenor |

On April 3rd we rang 5040 Stedman Triples in 2h. 53m. at S. John's, Glastonbury.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|
| J. F. Hastings | Treble | T. Short | 5 |
| S. Hounslow | 2 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | 6 |
| W. Finch | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| J. Field | 4 | T. Payne | Tenor |



S. CUTHBERT'S, WELLS.

| | Irs. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 31 | 6 1 0 | 1887 | J. Taylor & Co. |
| 2 | 33 | 7 1 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 39 | 11 0 0 | 1683 | R. H. L. D. |
| 4 | 41 | 12 0 0 | 1887 | J. Taylor & Co. |
| 5 | 43 | 13 1 0 | 1664 | T. S. |
| 6 | 47 | 19 0 0 | 1785 | W. Bilbie. |
| 7 | 51 | 23 0 0 | 1888 | J. Taylor & Co. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 56 | 30 0 0 | 1787 | W. Bilbie. |

This was the first peal rung in Glastonbury. Mr. C. Hounslow declined to enter the tower because of its overhanging pinnacles.



S. JOHN'S, GLASTONBURY.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 31 | 6 1 0 | 1878 | J. Taylor & Co. |
| 2 | 32 | 6 3 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 35 | 8 2 0 | 1743 | Thos. Bilbie. |
| 4 | 35½ | 8 3 0 | 1849 | P. Llewellyn. |
| 5 | 39 | 10 0 0 | 1743 | T. Bilbie. |
| 6 | 41½ | 12 0 0 | 1748 | " |
| 7 | 43½ | 13 3 0 | 1872 | Llewellyn & James. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 51½ | 23 0 0 | " | " |

We were kindly entertained at the Mitre Hotel, Wells, by the Dean and Chapter, and, in responding to the toast of our health, I told a true story of what had occurred 70 years before at a dedication of Church bells, viz.:—That the treble bell was taken into the aisle of the church, inverted, and filled with beer, which the ringers ladled out

with hand-bells to their friends, till many were drunk. [Such scenes are, happily, long out of date, and would be impossible now; but their effect remains in the low esteem in which ringers and ringing are still sometimes held.]

On April 12th I attended the re-opening of the 6 bells at Chalgrove, Oxon, preaching from Exodus xxviii, 33-35, the same text from which I had preached a week before at the opening of bells at Almington, N. Devon, my uncle's parish. [Were these bells at Chalgrove in 1643? and if so, did they ring in triumph for the Royalist cause, or in sorrow for that of the Parliament, when John Hampden met his death in a skirmish with Prince Rupert's Horse on Chalgrove Field?]

On April 13th we rang a very fast peal of Stedman Triples at Drayton, in 2h. 27m., fine striking.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| W. Finch | ... | ... | ... | Treble | H. D. Betteridge | ... | ... | 5 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 2 | T. Payne | ... | ... | 6 |
| A. Browning | ... | ... | ... | 3 | H. Baker | ... | ... | 7 |
| F. Field | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | ... | ... | Tenor |

The correctness of this quick peal was afterwards questioned by two correspondents in the columns of *Bell News*, with insinuations against the *bona fides* of the conductor. I replied with a positive declaration that the peal was "true, complete, and well struck throughout"; that there were no "scrambles" or "cooking," as alleged: and that, if our critics were not satisfied, we would repeat the performance before any competent witness deputed by them. This reply was pronounced, in an editorial comment, to be completely satisfactory, and the incident ended. [Disputes about peals have usually only temporary interest; but this seems worth recording, as the peal in question showed how fast it is possible with a good band, and as an exceptional performance, to ring small bells at a racing pace. The tenor at Drayton is barely 9½ cwt.]

On June 4th we rang our first peal of 5184 Cambridge Surprise Major at Drayton, in 2h. 54m.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| W. Cobb | ... | ... | ... | Treble | H. D. Betteridge | ... | ... | 5 |
| H. Fruin | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. Field | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Trinder | ... | ... | ... | 3 | T. Short | ... | ... | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | ... | ... | Tenor |

On June 16th we rang 5056 Cambridge Surprise at St. Helen's, Abingdon, in 3h. 10m., in memory of the late Emperor (Frederick) of Germany.

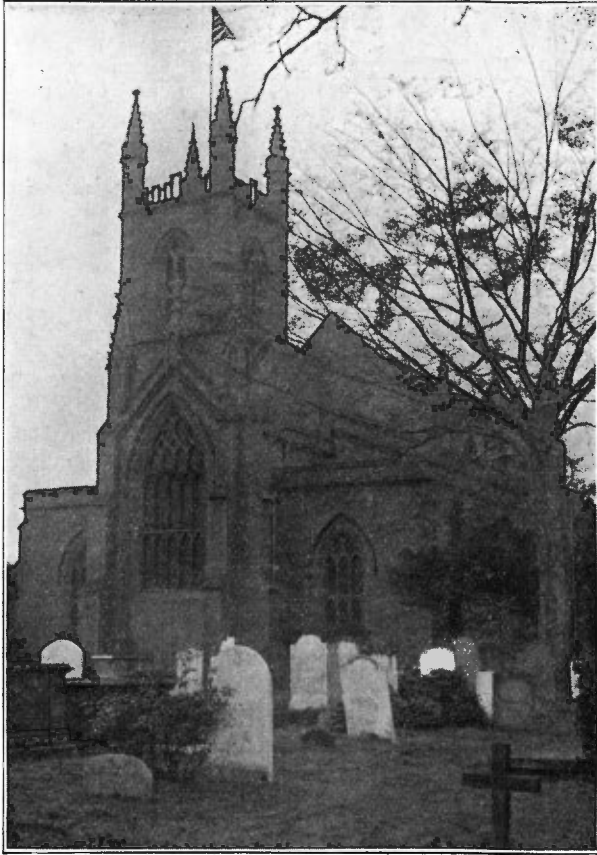
| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| W. Cobb | ... | ... | ... | Treble | F. Field | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| H. Fruin | ... | ... | ... | 2 | H. D. Betteridge | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Trinder | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| T. Short | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | | | | Tenor |

The first peal in the method on the bells.

On May 11th, 1888, I attended the Annual Festival at Braughing, Herts (see above, p. 65).

On May 21st I attended the Annual Meeting of the Essex Association, and preached on I Peter iv, 10-11, at Chelmsford. A peal of Stedman Caters came to an untimely end, owing to the somewhat officious interference of a Churchwarden, who served on me a written notice to cease ringing.

It seems worth while to preserve an extract from the report in *Bell News* of this meeting, at which we were not only singularly unlucky in peal ringing, but (greatly to the annoyance of our hosts) were exposed to interference as rare as it is discourteous, and in this case hardly justified by necessity:—"At Writtle, a peal of Grandsire Triples was lost on Monday morning after 2hrs., by the 3rd rope slipping wheel (an old fault which it had been hoped was cured); and in the evening a peal of Stedman Triples was allowed to come to an end half-way because the tenor-man could not keep the bell going at the quick pace (1h. 22m. for the half-peal). The band was a good one, and the striking excellent. On Tuesday morning a peal of Stedman Caters was started for at Chelmsford by the Revs. F. E. Robinson and H. A. Cockey, Messrs. Washbrook, Newson, N. J. and F. Pitstow, Jacob, Buckingham, and Cartmel, with W. Lincoln at the tenor. All went admirably for two hours, when there appeared in the belfry a person announcing himself as Churchwarden, and remarking that his permission ought to have been asked. After some parley, during which the ringing went on as well as ever, Mr. Robinson at last gave the order to "stand," and what promised to be a beautifully-rung peal came to an untimely end. The sexton had duly locked the door, but was obliged to give up the key to a church official: a warning to ringers in future that when



SS. PETER AND PAUL, MITCHAM.

| | in. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | in. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | |
|---------------|------------------|------|------|------|--|--------------|------------------|------|------|---|
| <i>Treble</i> | 28 | 4 | 2 | 0 | | 5 | 35 | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| 2 | 29 | 5 | 2 | 0 | | 6 | 37 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 3 | 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 6 | 2 | 0 | | 7 | 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 | 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 | 1 | 0 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 45 | 15 | 0 | 0 |

Cast in 1820 by Thomas Mears, jun.

they have obtained the clergyman's permission to ring, they should lock themselves in to keep out those whose consent is not necessary. (It transpired afterwards that the case of illness, given as the reason for interference, was that of a child not very seriously ill with measles, at a little distance from the church). A move was then made to Galleywood, where misfortune No. 4 occurred in the breaking of the tenor rope. It is a somewhat novel experience to the Rev. F. E. Robinson and Mr. Washbrook to lose three peals in two days, and all members of the Association will deeply regret that such ill-luck should befall them on their first visit to Essex."

In June I paid a visit to Dr. A. B. Carpenter, of Croydon, and rang three peals with the Surrey Association, viz. :—

June 6th, at SS. Peter and Paul, Mitcham, a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by J. W. Washbrook, in 2h. 49m.

June 7th, at Beddington, 5079 Stedman Caters, conducted by myself.

June 8th, at Leatherhead, 5021 Stedman Caters, composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook. This was Mr. G. Williams' first peal of Stedman Caters.

On June 18th I preached on I St. Peter iii, 11-12, at the Annual Meeting of the Kent County Association at Ashford. A peal of Grandsire at Canterbury Cathedral soon collapsed, but we rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Crayford on June 22nd as "Trinity Youths."

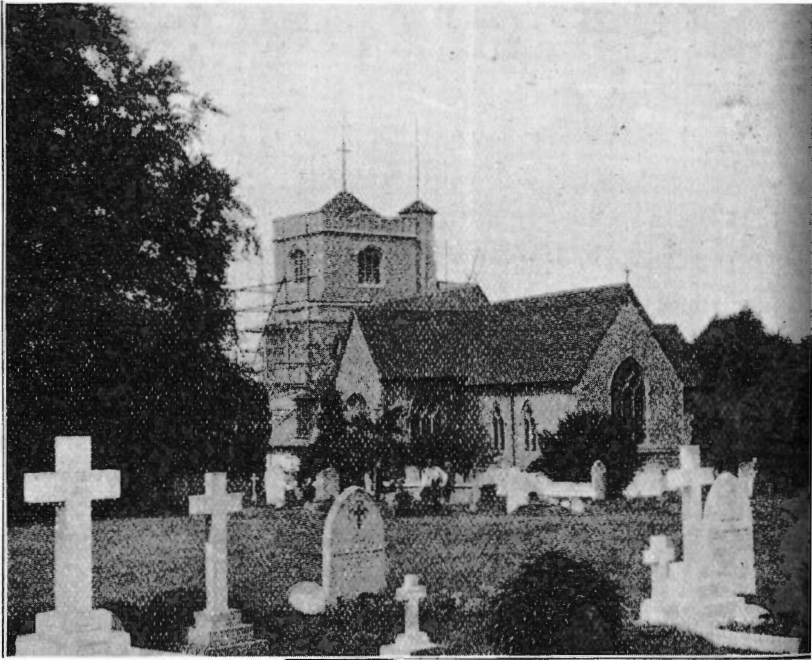
| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| G. Conyard | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | .. | 5 |
| W. Bedwell | ... | ... | ... | 2 | F. J. French | ... | ... | 6 |
| E. E Richards | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. H. A. Cockey | ... | ... | 7 |
| W. Weatherstone | (conductor) | | | 4 | J. Garand | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |

On July 7th we rang at Dorchester 5056 of Cambridge Surprise Major, the first peal in that method rung in Oxfordshire.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-----|--------------|
| W. Cobb | ... | ... | .. | <i>Treble</i> | T. Short | ... | ... | 5 |
| F. Field | ... | ... | ... | 2 | H. D. Betteridge | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Trinder | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 7 |
| H. Fruin | .. | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Washbrook | (conductor) | | <i>Tenor</i> |

On August 6th (Bank Holiday), the same band met at Drayton at 6 a.m., and after losing a peal of Cambridge Surprise before breakfast through a rope slipping wheel, scored three peals in the day—5056

Cambridge Surprise in the morning, 5088 Superlative Surprise in the afternoon, and 5184 Double Norwich in the evening—a busy day, during which we spent $10\frac{1}{4}$ hours ringing nearly 20,000 changes.



SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS, LEATHERHEAD.

| | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | | | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|----|--|----------------|----|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 6 | 2 | 4 | | 5 | | |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 12 | | 6 | 8 | 2 14 |
| 3 | 6 | 3 | 14 | | 7 | 10 | 0 11 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 12 | 0 5 |
| | | | | | | 16 | 2 3 |

Cast in 1792 by Thomas Mears.

Trebles added afterwards.

In September, A. P. Heywood, Esq. (now Sir A. P. Heywood, Bart.) invited us to Duffield for some peal ringing. We began well by ringing 5008 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 3h. 30m. on September 11th.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------------------------------|-----|-------|
| A. Cresser | ... | ... | ... | Tenor | Rev. C. D. P. Davies | ... | 6 |
| A. Thomas | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | 7 |
| A. P. Heywood (composer) | ... | ... | ... | 3 | N. J. Pitstow | ... | 8 |
| J. Griffin | ... | ... | ... | 4 | J. W. Taylor, Jun., (conductor) | ... | 9 |
| H. Baker | ... | ... | ... | 5 | E. Wightman | ... | Tenor |



S. PAULINUS, CRAYFORD.

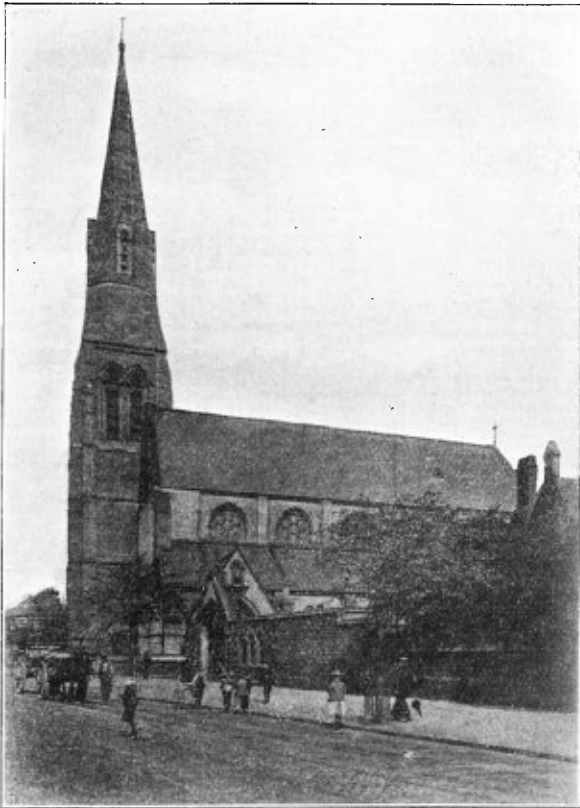
| | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | | | cwt. qrs. lbs. | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|----|--|----------------|----|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 4 | 0 | 14 | | 5 | 6 | 1 17 |
| 2 | 4 | 2 | 27 | | 6 | 7 | 1 12 |
| 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | 7 | 9 | 2 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 17 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 12 | 1 10 |

Cast in 1876 by Mears and Stainbank.

Our good luck then deserted us; we attempted peals at Quorndon, Tamworth, Youlgrave, etc., in vain. At the latter place a mouse came and gnawed a hole in my coat and pocket, wherein was some brown bread—our peal collapsing before he reached the bread.

We finished this very unsuccessful week with a peal of 5040 Grand sire Triples on September 14th, at S. Andrew's, Derby.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| S. Johnson | <i>Treble</i> | B. Sugden | 5 |
| H. Baker (conductor)... | 2 | J. W. Taylor, Jun. | 6 |
| N. J. Pitstow | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 7 |
| Rev. C. D. P. Davies (composer) | 4 | J. Howe | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. ANDREW'S, DERBY.

| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---------------|------|------|------|--------------|------|------|------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 6 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 27 |
| 2 | 6 | 2 | 20 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 7 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | <i>Tenor</i> | 20 | 2 | 4 |

All cast in 1881 by Mears and Stainbank.



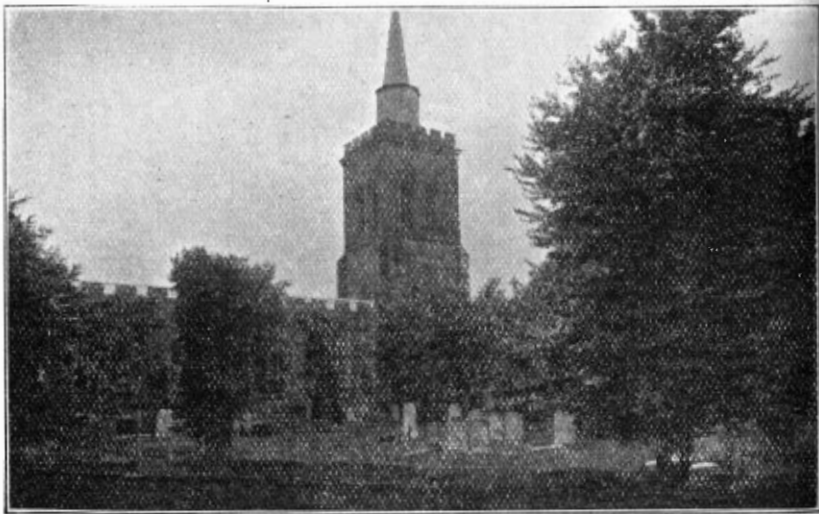
S. MARY'S, WARWICK.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 27 | 4 3 0 | 1901 | J. Taylor & Sons. |
| 2 | 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 30 | 6 0 0 | " | " |
| 4 | 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 6 2 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 7 0 0 | 1702 | Abraham Rudhall. |
| 6 | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 3 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 12 0 0 | 1901 | J. Taylor & Sons. |
| 8 | 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 14 1 0 | " | " |
| 9 | 48 | 20 0 0 | 1702 | Abraham Rudhall. |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 54 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 24 3 20 | 1814 | Thomas Mears, Jun. |

On the 25th of October we rang 5129 Grandsire Caters at Loughborough, and on the 26th we rang 5039 Grandsire Caters at S. Mary's, Warwick, in 3h. 24m.

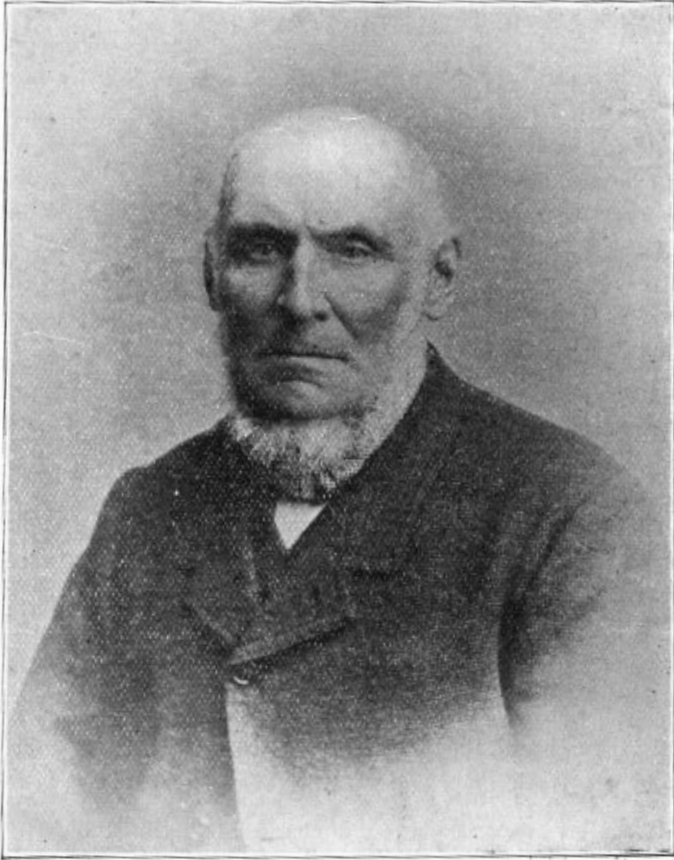
| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| H. Mason | <i>Treble</i> | H. Cartwright | 6 |
| C. W. Bassano... .. | 2 | A. H. Bassano | 7 |
| W. Bird | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | 8 |
| E. E. Parsons | 4 | J. W. Washbrook | 9 |
| W. Green | 5 | R. Bird | <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook.



S. MARY'S, BALDOCK.

| | in. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date | Founders |
|---------------|-----|----------------|------|-----------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 30½ | 5 1 0 | 1882 | J. Taylor & Co. |
| 2 | 31 | 5 2 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 33½ | 6 1 0 | " | " |
| 4 | 36½ | 8 1 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 38 | 9 0 0 | 1650 | Miles Graye. |
| 6 | 43½ | 12 2 0 | 1882 | J. Taylor & Co. |
| 7 | 48 | 19 2 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 53½ | 28 0 0 | 1711 | " |



THE LATE L. PROCTOR, ESQ., OF BENINGTON, HERTS,

(Who helped me much in learning the Surprise Methods, his band being the only one for many years which practised them regularly.)

On November 9th we rang the first peal of 5040 Kent Treble Bob Royal at Appleton, in 3h. 4m.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| H. Woodwards | ... | ... | Treble | H. Fruin | ... | ... | 6 |
| W. Bennett | ... | ... | 2 | J. Avery | ... | ... | 7 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | 3 | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 8 |
| G. Holfield | ... | ... | 4 | F. White | ... | ... | 9 |
| B. Barrett | ... | ... | 5 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | | | Tenor |

November 12th—17th, we paid a second peal-ringing visit to Hertfordshire on the invitation of Canon Wigram (see above, p. 48), and rang six peals in five days, with two failures—one at S. Alban's Abbey, through the bad go of the tenor, the other at Waltham Abbey, through having a scratch band. The visitors were myself, Mr. A. P. Heywood, Revs. C. D. P. Davies, G. F. Coleridge, and H. A. Cockey, Messrs. J. W. Taylor, jun., and J. W. Washbrook; Canon Wigram, Mr. H. Baker, and one or two other Hertfordshire ringers taking part. The peals rung were—

(1) November 12th, at All Saints, Hertford, 5035 Stedman Caters.

(2) November 13th, at S. Peter's, Benington, 5056 Cambridge Surprise Major.

(3) November 14th, at S. Mary's, Baldock, 5024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

(4) November 14th, at St. Mary's, Hitchin, 5040 Stedman Triples (a variation of Thurstans'.)

(5) November 15th, at S. Mary's, Braughing, 5088 Superlative Surprise Major.

(6) November 16th, at S. Peter's, S. Alban's, 5040 Stedman Triples.

All these peals, with the exception of (1) conducted by me, were conducted by Mr. Washbrook, who was also the composer of No. (3).

On December 6th, I rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Bishopstone, Wilts, on the old bells before the fire, conducted by Mr. Washbrook, (his 200th peal.)

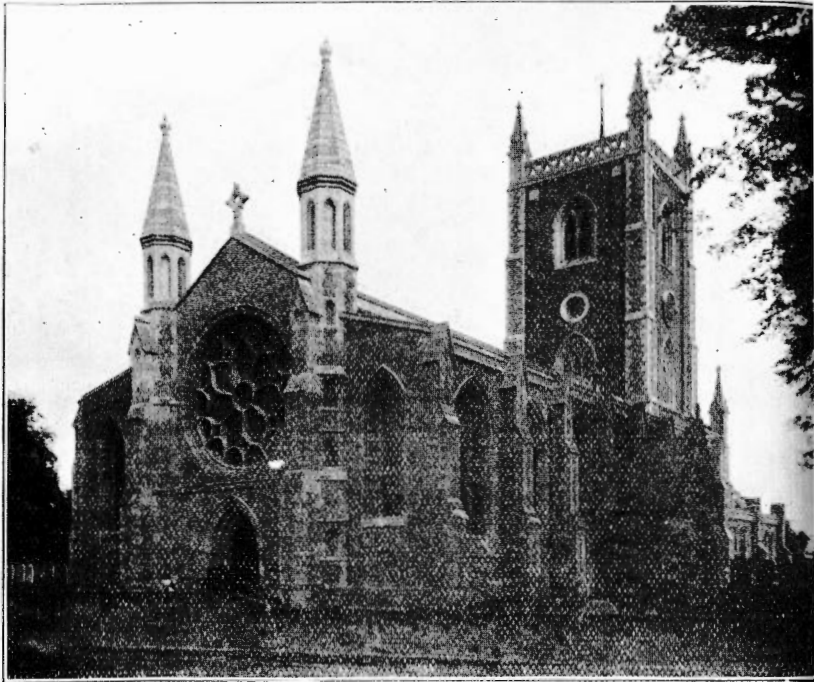
I rang my first peal, 5040 Stedman Triples, on the noble bells of Merton College, Oxford, in 3h. 19m.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| W. Finch | ... | ... | Treble | C. Hounslow | ... | ... | 5 |
| J. Howes | ... | ... | 2 | T. Payne | ... | ... | 6 |
| F. A. Castle | ... | ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook (conductor) | | | 7 |
| Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 4 | A. Barney | ... | ... | } Tenor |
| | | | | A. Strange | ... | ... | |



S. MARY, HITCHIN.

| | Ins. | cwt. qrs. lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------|----------------|-------|----------------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 32 | 6 0 0 | 1762 | J. Eayre, St. Neots. |
| 2 | 34½ | 7 0 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 39 | 10 0 0 | " | " |
| 4 | 41 | 11 0 0 | " | " |
| 5 | 43 | 11 2 0 | " | " |
| 6 | 42 | 12 0 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 50 | 22 0 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 53 | 25 2 0 | 1784 | E. Arnold. |



S. PETER'S, S. ALBANS.

| | In. | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | Date. | Founders. |
|---------------|------------------|------|------|------|-------|------------|
| <i>Treble</i> | 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1787 | J. Briant. |
| 2 | 29 | 4 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 3 | 30 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1729 | R. Phelps. |
| 4 | 31 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1812 | J. Briant. |
| 5 | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1729 | R. Phelps. |
| 6 | 35 | 7 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 7 | 38 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1805 | J. Briant. |
| 8 | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 11 | 2 | 0 | 1883 | J. Taylor. |
| 9 | 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 17 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| <i>Tenor</i> | 50 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 1729 | R. Phelps. |

The year concluded with a brilliant peal of 15,041 Stedman Caters, rung at Appleton on December 31st, in 9h. 16m., still (1902) the record peal in the method.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| F. White | ... | ... | ... | <i>Treble</i> | Rev. F. E. Robinson | ... | ... | 6 |
| C. Hounslow | ... | ... | ... | 2 | J. Avery | ... | ... | 7 |
| H. Baker | ... | ... | ... | 3 | J. W. Washbrook | ... | ... | 8 |
| W. Bennett | ... | ... | ... | 4 | Rev. G. F. Coleridge | ... | ... | 9 |
| G. Holifield | ... | ... | ... | 5 | F. S. White | ... | ... | <i>Tenor</i> |



S. MARY'S, BISHOPSTONE, WILTS.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|--|--------------|------|------|------|
| | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | | | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
| <i>Treble</i> | 6 | 0 | 18 | | 5 | 9 | 2 | 24 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 13 | | 6 | 11 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 19 | | 7 | 14 | 2 | 12 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | | <i>Tenor</i> | 19 | 2 | 19 |

Cast in 1891 by Mears & Stainbank.

A PEAL OF 15,041 STEDMAN CATERS.

By J. W. WASHBROOK.

| 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-------------------|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 4 | 5 | 16 | <i>Continued—</i> | 4 | 5 | 16 | | | | |
| *3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | | | | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | - | - |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | | | | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | - | - |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | - | - |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | - | - | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | - | - |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | - | - | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | - | - | | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | - | - | | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | - | - | | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | - | - |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | - | - | | †5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | - | - |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | - | - | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | - | - | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | - | - |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | - | - | | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | - | - | | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | - | - | | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | - | - | | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | - | - |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | - | - | | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | - | - |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | - | | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | - | - |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | - | - | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | - | - |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | - | - | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | - | - |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | - | - | | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | - |
| | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | - | - |

* This course produced by bobs at 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 16.

† This course is produced by bobs at 5, 7, 8, 15, 18.

The last eleven courses nine times repeated, with extra calls at 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, produce rounds at the third blow of the twenty-third six.

A single instead of a bob at 16 in the tenth course of fifth and tenth parts.

The subjoined account of this peal from *Bell News* is quoted to show what patience and perseverance can do for those who are determined to succeed :—

“ On Monday, December 31st, ten members of the Oxford Guild succeeded in ringing at the first attempt 15,041 of Stedman Caters. As it was the wish of the ringers to ring the peal in 1888, and as permission could not be obtained till the very last day of the year, with short notice the band assembled, several of them not knowing for certain if the peal was on or not till the day previous. However, nine o'clock saw nine of the band on the spot, some having had to come a long distance that morning. The tenth man, Mr. Avery, had not turned up. However, determined to have a start, one of the band started off to the next village to find the missing one, and found him quite busy, thrashing corn. The corn thrashing was soon under fresh hands, and at 10.30 the fine peal of ten bells struck off into Stedman Caters, the striking being

splendid up till four o'clock, when one of the band attempted to go in the wrong way. That was soon remedied, and the bells struck along as well as ever for two more hours, then another little hitch occurred which seemed to wake the men up to some downright good hitting, which was kept up till the bells ran round at 7.46 p.m., the whole peal being timed at 4m. to the course outside the tower, and the ringers were congratulated outside on ringing a first-class peal, and it may be mentioned that the greatest credit is due to the tenor ringer for the way he had stuck to his work and struck his bell. The bell, like the 8th, requires a lot of pulling, owing to their being in the top tier of a shaky tower, nine feet square, sometimes pulling one's arms nearly out, and sometimes not going up sufficiently, thus requiring double the pulling they should if they were steady, to ensure sound striking."

Thus my score of 69 peals in 1888 was made up of:—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Grandsire Triples | ... | ... | 7 |
| Grandsire Caters (one 13265) | ... | ... | 5 |
| Stedman Triples | ... | ... | 21 |
| Stedman Caters (one 12041, one 15041) | ... | ... | 11 |
| Double Norwich Court Bob Major | ... | ... | 12 |
| Superlative Surprise Major | ... | ... | 7 |
| Cambridge Surprise Major | ... | ... | 6 |

I occupied 472 hours in bellringing. During the year I preached at Alwington, Devon, and at Chalgrove, Oxon, on Exodus xxviii, 33—5; at Chelmsford, on I Peter iv, 10, 11; and at Ashford, Kent, on I Peter iii, 11, 12. I visited Burghclere, Chester Cathedral, Everdon (Northants), Little Wittenham, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Middleton, Cheney, Chipping Norton, Burghfield, Great Marlow, Cropredy, Weedon, and High Wycombe towers, to give advice as to repairs, etc.; and was present at opening ceremonies at Alwington, Chalgrove, Kingswood (Surrey), and Burghclere.

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