



No. 299. Vol. XI.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 1916.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

"WHAT CAN THE COUNCIL DO?"

In his letter which appeared in our last issue, Mr. Whittington suggested one practical means of reaching the "single bell" nuisance which, to a considerable extent, is doing harm to the Exercise, by getting on the nerves of the public and bringing down upon bell ringing as a whole the malediction of those who have real or fancied cause of complaint. There is no doubt there is far more opposition to ringing arising out of the continual clanging of single bells, or the jangling of two or three together, than of the rhythmical pealing of a properly rung ring of bells; and if, as our correspondent suggests, the influence of the Bishops could be got to reduce to a minimum this source of annoyance, a valuable step forward in safeguarding legitimate ringing would be made.

But while the necessity of "educating" the majority of the clergy in "the essential difference between change ringing and making a noise on bells" is a very important and desirable object, it is something more than an emergency question. The "education" of the clergy in matters pertaining to bells and ringing has been a very slow process in the past. It has taken several decades to spread among them the knowledge that already exists, and to extend it at a bound, as it were, is too much to expect. In the meantime the Exercise ought to be organised to meet opposition if it should come from high quarters; and in order to show a united front action by individual organisations cannot be so effective as that by a central body, although it would be valuable in supplementing whatever was done by the Central Council.

As to the question, "What could the Council do?" surely we must give them credit for possessing wisdom enough to evolve a line of action which would safeguard the interests of the Exercise. To deny them this would be a poor compliment. The members of the Council are elected, or should be, on the assumption that they represent the best brains of the Exercise, and we might confidently look to them to do what is best in the interests of ringers and ringing. There is great difficulty, however, in calling the Council together at any time but at its customary annual meeting, and it is not, in this case, even necessary. The Standing Committee ought to be quite competent to deal with the matter. Whether or not they contemplate, or are, doing so, we do not know—we are not in their confidence—but there is a strong feeling that there ought to be no procrastination. There is an old saying that "preparing is preventing," and if we are prepared for any emergency, the emergency may not arise. If it doesn't, so much the better. If it does, we should have nothing to reproach ourselves with, as we should have if it came upon us and found us unprepared.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.,
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract, — we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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**FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
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Chiming Machines.

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OF ALL KINDS.

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MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
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REPAIRS AND REHANGING
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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOMBOURN, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

*REV. C. HOLROYD BARKER <i>Treble</i>	HORACE SADLER 5
E. THOMAS THORPE 2	BENJAMIN GOUGH 6
JOSEPH CORNS 3	HERBERT KNIGHT 7
†JOHN APSE 4	BENJAMIN FULLWOOD ... Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.

* First peal. † First peal with a bob bell. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. H. L. Langley, M.A., who was inducted as Vicar of Wombourn the previous day; as a farewell peal to the Rev. C. Holroyd Barker, L.Th., who is about to take up duties at Christ Church, West Bromwich; and, incidentally, on the eve of the conductor's birthday. The band were hospitably entertained after the peal by the Rev. C. H. Barker.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION
(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, December 3, 1916, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.	Tenor 15cwt.
HERBERT JORDAN <i>Treble</i>	FREDERICK JORDAN 5
HARRY MIDDLETON 2	HENRY J. PHIPPS 6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 3	*JAMES HEMMING 7
FREDERICK J. JOHNSON 4	†GEORGE MOISEY Tenor

Conducted by JAMES HEMMING.

* First peal on eight bells as conductor. † First peal and first attempt. Rung with the bells half muffled, as a token of respect to Corporal L. H. Sparrow, of the 1st Worcestershire Regt., a highly respected member of the local band of ringers and a member of the Church choir, who was killed in France on Sunday, October 22nd.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Monday, November 27, 1916, in Two Hours and Twenty-two Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. A. WALKER,
81, BAKER STREET, SPARKHILL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.
Tenor 17 size in B flat.

*ALBERT WALKER 1-2	†JAMES E. GROVES 5-6
GEORGE F. SWANN 3-4	JAMES GEORGE 7-8

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

Referee: MR. GEO. YENDALL.

* First peal of Triples in hand. † First peal of Stedman Triples in hand. Rung on the birthday of Mr. James George.

SUTTON COLDFIELD, WARWICKSHIRE.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, December 2, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. F. W. PERRENS, 3, DRIFOLD VILLAS,
MANEY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5041 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 size in C.

JAMES E. GROVES 1-2	GEORGE F. SWANN 5-6
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	ALBERT WALKER 7-8
JAMES GEORGE 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

Witness: Mrs. F. W. PERRENS.

This is the first handbell peal rung in Sutton Coldfield.

SHEFFIELD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday, November 29, 1916, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes
At 31, BURGESS STREET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

JOHN THORPE 1-2 | WILLIAM J. THYNG ... 5-6
CLEMENT GLENN 3-4 | R. WILFRED COLLIER... 7-8

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

From Tunstall, Kent:

- Corpl. S. J. Spice, Motor Transport, A.S.C., now in Malta.
- Pte G. E. Harris, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, at the front.
- Pte C. White, R.A.M.C.
- Pte F. G. Elliott, 4th Buffs.
- Pte W. E. Spice, Motor Transport, A.S.C.

From St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne:—

- Pte H. Palmer, Army Service Corps.

From Upton St. Leonard's, Gloucestershire:—

- Thomas Clissold, A.S.C., France.
- William Avery, R.F.A., Gosport.
- Henry Newman, A.V.C., Woolwich.
- Melville J. Jordan, 2/5th Glosters, France.
- William Wasley, 2/5th Norfolks, Doncaster.

From Sandhurst, Gloucester:

- Henry Daniels.
- Joseph Devereux.

From St. Michael's, Gloucester:

- Albert H. Baker.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

In connection with the agitation recently raised in some quarters for suppressing church bells, the following, taken from the "Nottingham Daily Guardian," is interesting. It shows how those who have the influence of the Press at command can, by mere comment, endeavour to undermine the position which the use of centuries has established for bells.

Sir,—The statement has been made more than once lately that the original purpose of church bells was to drive away evil spirits, so that the congregation might assemble in safety. This is inaccurate. The original use of church bells was simply a summons to worship. They replaced, for this purpose, the less effective rapping with a mallet on a suspended plank of wood. But as it became the custom to have church bells solemnly blessed by the bishop, it soon got to be held that they did drive away evil spirits, and also drove away thunderstorms.—I am, sir, etc.,

A. BAYLAY.

Thurgarton Vicarage.

[The practice of ringing bells in connection with worship is older than Christianity. Like other things in connection with the Christian Church, bell ringing had a pagan origin. One of the original purposes of the bell ringing was in all probability to awake the god. The use of bell ringing to drive away evil spirits is older than the practice of consecrating the bells.—Ed. "N.G."]

OXFORD BOB.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In his letter last week, Mr. Baker raises the vexed, and at present undetermined, question of extension. Until we learn how to express a method mathematically, as a function of the number of bells, we can never say definitely what the extension of any method is; all we can do is to balance probabilities and express opinions. And while we are in this state, we are very often confronted with two methods on one number of bells, either of which might be the extension of a method on a lower number. In the absence of more definite knowledge, it seems reasonable to call them both correct extensions. There is, by analogy, a mathematical precedent for this. a^n has n roots; is it not possible that a method on x bells should have n extensions on $x + 2n$ bells? This, at any rate, is my considered opinion, and so I would claim to be as correct as Mr. Baker in my extension of his method to Maximus. Starting with Oxford Bob Minor, the series, in the light of the foregoing, runs like this:—

3rd always the pivot bell.

Methods given by the places she makes in 1st lead.

	6	8	10	12	14	16
	1 method	1 method	2 methods	2 methods	3 methods	3 methods
	4 1 4	6 3 6	6 1 6	(i) 8 3 8	8 1 8	(i) 0 3 0
(Oxford Bob)	(Mr. Baker's)	(Oxford Bob)	(Oxford Bob)	(Oxford Bob)		
		8 5 8	(ii) 0 7 0	(i) 0 5 0	(ii) x 7 x	
		(Mr. Baker's)	(Both Mr. Baker's)	(ii) x 9 x	(iii) b E b	
				(i) & (ii) (Mr. Baker's)	(all Mr. Baker's)	

Yours truly,

H. W. FRIGHT.

P.S.—If Mr. Baker is agreeable, what about christening this method "Oxford Bob II" for convenience in speaking of it?—H. W. F.

WANSTEAD STEDMAN MAJOR.

By GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

5040

11	13	17	12345
—	—	—	42351
—	—	—	54321
—	—	—	45231
—	—	—	34251
—	—	—	43521
—	—	—	24531
—	—	—	34512

Repeat four times.

Plain Course.		Plain Course
144 Changes.		by Six Ends.
12345678		12345678
21436587	1	24163857
124 578	2	6813
142 758	3	8361
412 785	4	43218765
421 875	5	1728
24163857	6	7812
42618375	7	38427516
462 735	8	2547
642 753	9	5724
624 573	10	87345621
264 537	11	4635
24681357	12	6543
42863175	13	75836142
482 715	14	3186
842 751	15	1638
824 571	16	56781234
284 517	17	8271
24836157	18	2187
Repeat seven times	19	61572483
	20	7452
	21	4275
	22	12654378
	23	5364
	24	3456

In this peal the calls, to coin a new word, are "Steds." When a six is "stedded," the three bells behind are rung quick instead of slow, or slow instead of quick, as the case may require. It is the only peal known to the Exercise without either bobs or singles, bobs being impossible at the parting of the sixes with all the bells changing, though singles moving 2, 4 or 6 bells can be made. Wanstead Stedman settles an altogether modern and highly casuistical controversy, which controversy would never have arisen if the Law—James-dominated Central Council had had the discernment to perceive the sophistry of that arch-casuist's reasoning and given an honest definition of the word "bob." If the quick three is a bob, a proposition that the writer has always dissented from, the slow three is also a bob, and as a three must either be slow or quick, it follows that there is no such thing as a plain three. A bob is precisely what 99½ per cent. of the ringers of all generations have deemed it to be, and it ought not to be necessary to tell any ringer that in Stedman there are more ways than one of changing the coursing order, or, in plain English, of moving three bells. With two hunting sets, a six may be rung in four different ways, viz.:

- Slow, slow.
- Slow, quick.
- Quick, slow.
- Quick, quick.

As will be seen from the plain course, two only of the four ways are ordinarily made use of in Wanstead Stedman, viz., the double slows and the double quicks. There are two consecutive double quicks, and consequently there are three sub-divisions to the division. In what, for convenience, may be called Cambridge Stedman, there are two sub-divisions only, and there is no valid reason why three or any other number, or no number at all, should be less allowable than two, any more than there is no valid reason why bells should not hunt in sets of four or any higher number, as well as in sets of three. Wanstead is a better form of the method than what has not been very appropriately named Double Stedman, because the number of wrongs behind is reduced to a minimum, and because the courses are neither excessively short nor excessively long. It is to be hoped that no one will attempt to de-Stedmanise Wanstead Stedman by "Bakerising" it. Stedman is an excellent name in all the Exercise, and the efforts of Shipway and other mare's-nest discoverers to exalt their own names to the same level have been fizzes.

PRINCE OF WALES' WAR FUND.

We have received on behalf of the above fund £1 5s. 6d., the sum collected at the 39th annual festival of the Durham and Newcastle Association, on October 28th.

MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry
Established
A.D. 1570.

Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,
LONDON, E.



Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

PRESENTATION TO RETIRING BRANCH SECRETARY.

The quarterly meeting of the North Bucks Branch was held at Bletchley on Saturday last, when about 40 members were present, representing the following towers: Shenley, Stony Stratford, Newport Pagnell, Beachampton, Bradwell, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes, and the local ringers. Among the several ringing friends present were: Messrs. F. Wilford and Allen (Northampton), Cyril and Ernest Herbert (Woburn Sands), A. King (Luton), and Mr. Lambert, of Yardly Gobion. The bells of St. Mary's were available, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major were rung, both before and after service. An effort was made to obtain permission for ringing after dark, but the military authorities would not grant the application.

The service was conducted by the Rev. J. R. Vincent, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector (the Rev. F. W. Bennett), through illness.—Tea was provided in the Schoolroom by the wives of the local ringers, and a vote of thanks was passed to them on the splendid way the catering was carried out. At the business meeting, which followed, Mr. T. Best presided, as the Rev. J. R. Vincent was unable to stay to the meeting. A very interesting address was given by Dr. Bradbrook, of Bletchley, on "Bells," which was much appreciated by all present.

Finally, a happy finish was put to a very excellent meeting by a presentation to the late secretary of the branch, Mr. T. Best, who was given a silver inkstand, in shape of a bell, suitably inscribed. The gift was supplied by Mr. J. Comber, of Woking.

WINCHESTER GUILD.

VICAR'S INTEREST IN PRACTICE MEETINGS.

Another very successful practice meeting, arranged in connection with the Guildford District, was held at Cranleigh, Surrey, on Saturday, when the peal of eight were utilised to full advantage from 2.30 p.m. until dusk. About two dozen ringers were present from the local and neighbouring towers, and this increase in numbers was evidence of the appreciation which the men of the district have for the facilities provided for them through the initiative of Messrs. R. Whittington and C. Hazelden. After the ringing, the party enjoyed an excellent tea served at the Greyhound Hotel, the Vicar (the Rev. Philip Cunningham), although busily engaged with other matters, making the opportunity to join the visitors. After tea a vote of thanks to the Vicar was proposed by Mr. Whittington, and seconded by Mr. F. E. Dawe. Mr. Hazelden also voiced the thanks of the ringers to the Vicar of Cranleigh, who had placed his bells at the disposal of the Guild for these combined practices once a month. He also explained that these gatherings, which were held fortnightly, and which it was hoped to continue after Christmas, were to help keep up the standard of ringing, so that there should be no falling off when peace came.—The Vicar, in replying to the vote, welcomed the ringers to Cranleigh, and said he was pleased to place the bells at their disposal at any time they liked to apply to him. He would also be glad to assist them in any way he could in securing the use of bells at other churches, if ever any difficulty arose in obtaining permission to ring (applause).—Afterwards two touches of Stedman Triples and two of Grandsire Triples were brought round on handbells in capital style.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The annual meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at West Ham on Saturday last. Ringing started at 2.45 p.m., with a touch of Bob Major, followed by Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Treble Ten till 4.30 p.m., when, owing to the prevailing restrictions, ringing was stopped and an adjournment made to the Mission Hall, where an excellent tea was partaken of. This was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. R. E. T. Bell. One old member was re-elected, and one non-resident and one honorary member were also elected. The Master (Mr. E. Butler) and the hon. secretary (Mr. H. Rumens) were re-elected to their respective offices, the Master agreeing to undertake the secretarial duties during the absence of Mr. Rumens on active service. Barking was selected as the place for the next meeting, with St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, as an alternative tower. The business concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of West Ham, through the Rev. R. E. T. Bell, for giving permission to use tower and bells; to Mr. Doran for arranging the tea and having everything in readiness, and to the Rev. R. E. T. Bell for presiding over the meeting. This was acknowledged by the latter, and Mr. Doran, who gave a few of his experiences during the early days of the Association, and incidentally mentioned that he had now been connected with West Ham Parish Church as a ringer for over 40 years, 21 of which he had been steeple-keeper.

During the afternoon, between 30 and 40 members and friends visited the tower, whilst 32 sat down to tea. After the meeting the evening was spent with touches of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters and Triples, Bob Royal, Treble Ten and Double Norwich on the handbells, and a few tunes by Messrs. E. Wightman and C. Morass.

HEROES FROM THE BELFRY.

Pte F. G. Lewis, of Llanfrecfa, where he was a regular Sunday service ringer at the parish church, died of wounds in France on Oct. 20th, at the age of 24 years. In addition to being a ringer he was vergar at the church, and on enlisting joined the South Wales Borderers. It was only seven months from the time he joined the army until he was killed.

The little company of ringers at St. Barnabas' Church, Linslade, Bucks, have sustained another loss by the death of a second member of the band on the field of battle—Pte R. J. Seddon, of the 5th Royal Sussex Regt., having been killed by a shell on Nov. 14th.

The centre picture is that of Pte A. J. Knight, of the Northants Regiment, who has been awarded the D.C.M. for bravery on the field. He is 22 years of age, and has been in the army since September, 1914, going to the front in July,



PTE. F. G. LEWIS. L.-CORPL. J. DAUGHTREY.
PTE. R. J. SEDDON. PTE. A. J. KNIGHT, D.C.M. PTE. C. H. HUGHES.

1915. Before joining he was an active member of the Kettering band, and had rung 14 peals.

Lance - Corporal John Daughtrey fell in France on Oct. 1st, being killed whilst out with a working party in the newly-captured German lines. In the advance on the Somme front in July his bravery gained for him the Military Medal. He was a ringer, with his father and three brothers, at Storrington, Sussex, and also at Pulborough, and was a member of the Sussex Association.

The late Pte C. H. Hughes, a member of the band at St. George-the-Martyr's Church, Southwark, who was killed in France on Sept. 9th while serving with the King's Royal Rifle Corps, was a steward of the London County Association Southern District, and, in addition, a member of the College Youths and Kent and Sussex County Associations. He had rung 45 peals.

KILLED IN ACTION.

The church at Langham, near Colchester, Essex, has lost a loyal and useful member by the death of Pte Alfred T. Smith, of the 10th Essex Regiment, who was killed in France on October 22nd. He was a ringer, a choirman and communicant, and will be a great loss, for, as one who knew and valued him writes, "he was a reliable, steady, excellent young man in every way." The deceased had taken part in one peal of Minor at Langham, which was rung in the year 1914. His father, Mr. Arthur J. M. Smith, is captain of the local band, and his brother, Mr. Frank Smith, is also a ringer. Pte Smith was a member of the Essex Association.

A second ringer from St. Barnabas' Church, Linslade, Bucks, has laid down his life for his country. Pte R. J. Seddon, of the 5th Royal Sussex Regiment, was killed by a shell in France on November 14th.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 21st, and was attended by a good number of ringers. On the following Sunday the bells were rung half-muffled, the following taking part in the touches: Rev. W. S. Mahony, Messrs. W. Dack, R. Horton, H. Hunt, W. Jeffs, Sapper A. G. King, Messrs. A. Vickers, A. Vickers, junr., F. Vickers, G. Bonfield, W. Dedman and W. Seabrook. The three last named belong to the All Saints' band, and kindly assisted their friends at Linslade.

Corpl. L. H. Sparrow, of Badsey, Worcestershire, has also been killed in France. Before joining the Worcestershire Regiment he was one of the parish church bell ringers, and also a member of the choir. He saw service in the Dardanelles, and had been in France for some time. He was killed on Oct. 22nd by a shell falling on the dug-out in which he was sheltering. On Sunday last a half-muffled peal of Grand sire Triples was rung to his memory, at St. James' Church, Badsey.

INTERNED RINGERS' QUARTER PEAL.

A very pleasant reunion took place at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on a recent Sunday, when three old members joined those still left behind in a quarter-peal of Grand sire Triples, rung in 45 mins. The band was: Lance-Corpl. W. J. Kemp 1, G. B. Lucas 2, S. S. Dunwell 3, C. T. Coles (conductor) 4, Seaman H. J. Cantor (R.N.V.R.) 5, S. H. Cooper 6, A. A. Hughes 7, Lance-Corpl. L. G. Hicks 8. Seaman Cantor, who was in the siege of Antwerp, was home on short leave from Holland, where he has been interned since the fall of the Belgian City. He was returning on the following day. Lance-Corpl. Hicks was home on leave, after having recovered from wounds received in action. He is now waiting his turn to go out again. Lance-Corpl. Kemp was also home on leave, from Salisbury Plain. It is hoped that it may not be long before the meeting can be repeated—permanently.

'BELLS AND DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACT.

The suggestion made in these columns by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, as to the use of the curfew to warn the public of the time for subduing lights under the Defence of the Realm Act, is being carried out at Wigan, where, at the parish church the tenor is rung each evening for five minutes for the purpose. The Mayor has, however, warned the public that the ringing of the curfew is entirely an act of grace, and it will be no defence for any person charged with a breach of the regulations to attempt to show that the curfew was not rung, or was rung at the wrong time.

Last week, the Rev. E. Coulthard, Vicar of St. Paul's, Winchmore Hill, was summoned at Enfield for allowing the bells to be rung after prohibited hours. When told by a constable that he would be summoned under the Defence of the Realm Act, he replied, 'It's a lot of tommy rot.' At the Court, the Vicar said the churchwardens were responsible, but the Bench declined to take that view, and, while holding the reverend gentleman accountable, dismissed the summons on the ground that it was a first offence.

RINGING PRACTICE AT PERSHORE.

On a recent Saturday, members of the Southern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, together with Mr. C. Camm (Ringing Master of the Western Branch) visited Pershore Abbey, where, with the local ringers, an enjoyable afternoon was spent. The visitors were piloted up the steps and through a maze of passages to the "bird-cage," some ninety feet above ground level, from which one can look down into the church. The bells, a grand peal of eight by Rudhall (tenor 30 cwt. in D), were raised in peal, but owing to their having been silent since the New Year, they did not go like the proverbial fiddle. However, the first part of Groves' Variation was tapped off by J. Dolphin 1, J. D. Johnson (conductor) 2, G. Bozard 3, W. Need 4, G. Dolphin 5, F. J. Johnson 6, J. Hemming 7, S. O. Annis 8, followed by a touch of 377 conducted by J. Hemming, O. Camm and Geoffrey Hemming (who is only 14 years old) taking part. Four courses of Bob Major were suggested, but owing to the failing light, two were decided upon, the band being: W. Need 1, J. D. Johnson (conductor) 2, G. Dolphin 3, F. J. Johnson 4, C. Camm 5, S. O. Annis 6, J. Dolphin 7, J. Hemming 8. Through the kindness of Mr. J. Dolphin, the visitors were afterwards entertained to tea at his house, thanks being accorded him for the arrangements and his hospitality. It is hoped to arrange more of these practices in the future, as at only two towers in the district is it possible to ring for service without outside help.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**PRESENTATION TO THE HON. SECRETARY.**

A combined meeting for practice was held at Allesley on Saturday week, when touches of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Minor and Stedman Doubles were rung. Amongst those taking part in the ringing was Lance-Corporal R. Green, the local military medalist, who was home on a well-earned leave from France, and who was heartily welcomed and congratulated in the tower. A 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, which was being rung as a farewell to H. Kettle, hon. secretary of the Warwickshire Guild, who was joining the colours the next week, unfortunately came to grief in the last course.

At the close of the ringing, Mr. J. White asked Mr. Kettle to accept a present of tobacco, together with a pipe and pouch, which has been subscribed for by the Stoke and Allesley ringers as a token of their friendship and sincere good wishes for his welfare on joining the colours, and their hope for his safe return. The kind feeling of the members was much appreciated by the recipient, who thanked them for their sincere kindness and good wishes, which would always be remembered. He hoped that the very pleasant times which had been spent by the Stoke and Allesley ringers would continue.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.

The eleventh meeting of the Romney Marsh and District Guild for the year was held at Rolvenden on Saturday week. Unfortunately, it was raining the greater part of the day, and this militated against a big attendance, Biddenden, Benenden, Salehurst and Tenterden being the only towers represented. The bells were raised soon after two o'clock, but ringing could not be commenced till 3.30. This was due to there being a V.A.D. Hospital close to the church, where they were receiving and sending important news by telephone, and the ringers were asked to refrain from ringing until this had been completed. Thus, owing to the present restrictions, only about an hour's ringing was possible, and this was utilised in training two promising recruits of the local band in ringing the covers to Grandsire Doubles.

After the bells had been lowered the meeting was held in the belfry, Mr. H. Perry, of Salehurst, presiding. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Great Chart, on December 16th, and a vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for permission to hold the meeting, etc.

The Rev. Percival Smith, a former Vicar of the parish, who was on a visit to Rolvenden, visited the belfry, and said he was very pleased to hear the old bells ringing again.

81 AND STILL RINGING.

On Sunday, November 26th, 1916, at St. Lawrence's Church, Barnwood, Gloucester, a quarter-peat of Grandsire Triples was rung as a welcome to G. Smith and H. Newman, who were home on leave: F. A. Waite 1, Jesse Gillett 2, John Austin (conductor) 3, Henry Mitchell 4, G. Condick 5, Alfred A. Waite 6, H. Newman 7, Thomas Whiting 8. Also a short touch of Grandsire Triples, and two courses of Bob Major, in which G. Smith and J. A. Waite took part. Mr. H. Mitchell is in his 82nd year, and still hopes to ring a peal on the bells.

REV. A. ERSKINE'S RETURN TO PONDOLAND.

Lord Mar and Kellie's missionary brother, the Rev. Alexander Erskine, who was married at Glasgow Cathedral in July to Miss Irene Campbell, the Bishop of Glasgow's eldest daughter, is returning to the scene of his labours in Kaffraria and taking his wife with him. Mrs. Alexander Erskine has been, with her mother, an indefatigable worker in good causes in Glasgow, and she will make an ideal wife for a missionary. As our readers know, the Hon. A. Erskine was formerly an active ringer, and now has charge of a large African district in Pondoland. He is also chaplain to the Bishop of Kaffraria, and it is interesting to note that his wife's father was at one time Commissary to the Bishop in Kaffraria. Her mother is a sister of Lord Middleton.

We have not heard that he has been successful in obtaining the bell he appealed for.

BELLS THAT INSPIRED FAMOUS HYMN.

At Elton, on Saturday, Oct. 28th, touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung by: C. Redhead (Elton), Rev. L. S. Clark (Polebrook), Miss C. M. Orlebar (King's Cliffe), J. J. Jutson, H. Hoare, senr., H. Hoare, junr., W. Waldron and W. Beeton (Peterborough). Dr. Faber, once Rector of Elton, seceded to the Roman Church in 1845, and these fine old bells are supposed to have been in his mind when he wrote the famous hymn, "Hark, Hark, my Soul." The tenor is 18½ cwt., and the bells were rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. in 1896.

CAERPHILLY, GLAM.—On Wednesday, Oct. 18th, for the harvest festival, 600 Doubles, with 4, 6, 8 behind: E. Phillips 1, A. Addicott 2, F. Boucher 3, W. Pike 4, G. Cooke (conductor) 5, J. Jones 6, F. Evans 7, H. Challice 8.—On Sunday evening, Oct. 22nd, 1080 Doubles (nine different callings), 7, 6, 8 behind: W. Pike 1, A. Addicott 2, F. Boucher 3, P. Jones 4, G. Cooke (conductor) 5, W. Williams 6, J. Jones 7, H. Challice 8. Longest length by all except the conductor.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A Meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on December 19th for business, and on the 14th and 28th for handbell practice. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members, who seldom attend the meetings, to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society, Est. 1824).—A meeting will be held at the headquarters, "The Edinburgh," Milford Lane, Strand, on Saturday, Dec. 9th, at 6.30 p.m., for business, followed by handbell practice, etc. All ringers cordially invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, E.C.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Heywood Parish Church on Saturday, December 9th. Bells, ready at 2 o'clock, till dusk; meeting to follow. Reports will be ready for this meeting.—T. K. Driver, 132, Morton Street, Middleton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Clifton, on Dec. 9th. Bells at 2.30. Service, 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Kindly notify by Dec. 5th.—C. J. Walton, 4, Jamaica Street, Bristol.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the South Eastern Division will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells available 3.15 till dusk, followed by handbell ringing, and service. Tea, 6 o'clock at the Cedars Hotel, followed by meeting, election of officers, etc. Tea 1s. each to non-members. Will those intending to be present please notify me by Dec. 13th?—F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey, on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (8) available until dusk; afterwards for handbell ringing at "White Cross," business meeting there 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Manchester Town Hall on Saturday, December 16th. Bells available from 2.30 till dusk. Meeting to follow. Reports now ready. Life members 6d. each. Subscriptions due.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 16th. Bells available at 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m.—E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Garston on Saturday, December 16th. Ringing from 3 to 5. Service at 5. Meeting at 6. Members intending being present please send word to Walter Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.—Rev. E. C. Collier, Walter Hughes, Secretaries.

WEST EALING.—The bells of St. Stephen's Church will be open for practice on Saturday, December 16th, from 3 to 4.30. All ringers will be welcomed.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Preston, on Saturday, December 16th. Ringing from 2 to 5 p.m. Meeting at 5 o'clock. A good attendance requested.—A. E. Woodhouse, Branch Secretary.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. John's, Cardiff, on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th. Bells (10) available from 10 o'clock. Short service in the church at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30, the Vicar will preside. A meat tea will be provided at 5.30, to be followed by a social gathering. Llandaff Cathedral bells (8) available from 12 to 2; Whitchurch bells (6) available, from 10 to 2.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., John W. Jones, 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon., Hon. Secs.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

WICKHAMBREAUX, KENT.—Kent County Association.—On Monday, Sept. 18th, at the Parish Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor, in 24 mins.: F. Smith 1, P. Cobbold 2, H. Smith 3, S. Walter 4, A. Johnson 5, Sapper S. White, R.E. (conductor) 6. The ringers of 1, 2 and 5 come from the neighbouring tower of Littlebourne, and the others belong to the local band. This was rung on the occasion of the marriage at Maidstone of Mr. Albert Archer, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Archer, of the Rose Inn, Wickhambreaux, and Miss C. Towner, of Maidstone; also of Mr. J. F. Laker, formerly a member of the local band, and Miss E. Smith, eldest daughter of the ringer of the third, who were married at Boston, U.S.A., early in September.

OSWESTRY, SALOP.—On Sunday, Oct. 1st, for dedication festival, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): Pte Harris 1, R. Martin 2, R. Edwards 3, R. Evans 4, Edward Jones 5, George Williams 6, Pte Passcroft (conductor) 7, George Beatow 8.

STANSTED.—Essex Association. — On Sunday, Oct. 1st, at the Parish Church, for morning service, 360 Grandsire Doubles: W. W. Watts 1, W. H. Carr 2, G. Gray 3, T. J. Watts 4, W. Watts (conductor) 5, Lance-Corpl. R. Law 6.—On Nov. 12th, for morning service, 360 Grandsire Doubles: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, H. G. Watts 3, T. J. Watts 4, W. Watts (conductor) 5, Pte H. W. Watts 6.

CROFTON, YORKS.—On Oct. 14th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Woffendon 1, G. Hunt 2, J. Briggs (first 720) 3, F. Atkinson 4, H. Rowley (conductor) 5, G. H. Pickles 6. Ringers of 1, 2, 5, 6 from Horbury, three from Crofton and four from Wragby.

EASTON NESTON, NORTHANTS.—On Saturday, Oct. 14th, for induction service, 504 Stedman Triples: F. Hopper 1, A. J. Mawby 2, J. Hensman 3, J. W. Unwin 4, W. Fairey 5, A. Moore 6, W. J. Allen 7, R. Christian 8.—On Sunday, Oct. 15th, for harvest festival, morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. Hopper 1, R. Christian 2, A. Moore 3, A. Andrews 4, W. R. Parker 5, J. W. Unwin 6, A. J. Mawby (conductor) 7, J. W. Haynes (first quarter-peal) 8.

CHARLWOOD, SURREY.—On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 15th, at the Parish Church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob and 240 Woodbine: G. Wickens 1, A. Wood 2, F. W. Rice 3, G. Illman 4, B. King 5, A. Ellis (conductor) 6. For evening service, 720 Woodbine: G. Wickens 1, F. W. Rice 2, A. Wood 3, G. Illman 4, B. Kings 5, A. Ellis (conductor) 6.

GUILDFORD.—On Sunday, Oct. 15th, at Holy Trinity Church, for the Sung Eucharist, 1260 Stedman Triples (Thurstans): W. E. Jelley 1, Pte O. N. Burdock 2, H. Hutton 3, C. Hazelden 4, H. Harris 5, B. Chorley 6, M. Smither (conductor) 7, W. R. Melville 8.

KIDDERMINSTER.—On Sunday, Oct. 15th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Brooks): T. J. Salter 1, G. Davis 2, N. Davis 3, W. H. Smith 4, J. Woodberry 5, R. Moy (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 6, C. H. Woodberry (conductor) 7, J. Bennett 8. The conductor's last touch previous to joining the forces.

STOURBRIDGE.—On Oct. 15th, at St. Thomas' Church, for morning service, 360 Bob Minor: W. Hand 1, G. H. Pagett 2, W. A. Pugh 3, O. W. Cooper 4, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 5, A. W. Dodd 6. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples (1260 changes), in 50 mins.: W. Hand 1, J. Bass 2, G. H. Pagett 3, W. A. Pugh 4, R. Moors 5, A. W. Dodd 6, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 7, C. W. Cooper 8. The bells were rung half-muffled in memory of the late Mrs. Cave-Brown-Cave.

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