

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 388. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

WILFRID CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Messrs GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918
Bentham.

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 gives general satisfaction.

I am authorized 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. BUCK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

THE NORWICH ASSOCIATION.

Every member of the Norwich Diocesan Association will, we are sure, regret to learn of the resignation of the Secretary, Mr. Charles E. Borrett, who has been compelled by ill-health to relinquish the duties which he has so efficiently discharged for 16 years past. With all the enthusiasm of a keen and clever ringer, Mr. Borrett has carried on the work, not only with credit to himself but to the great advantage of the Association, and his service has covered a period which witnessed a great acquisition to the strength of the organisation, as well as a steady advance in the standard of the methods rung. Mr. Borrett comes of a ringing family, and he was one of a young and earnest band who did great things in the days when big performances were not so common as in the times just before the war. Everyone will hope that Mr. Borrett will recover his health and be long spared to participate in the art which he has done so much to promote in the two counties formerly covered by the Diocese of Norwich.

To succeed him, the Association have been exceedingly fortunate to secure a man, not only deeply interested in ringing, but with practical experience as secretary of a ringing association. Mr. A. L. Coleman was one of the founders of the Warwickshire Guild and its first secretary, and it is interesting to read that he was a son of one of the founders of the Norwich Association. He comes into the task eminently fitted for the post, and the prestige of the Association will be safe in his hands. It is pleasing to note the revival of activity in the Diocese, where for nearly four years no meetings were held. An attendance of 70 members at Ipswich is extremely gratifying, and, while fully justifying the decision to revive these gatherings, was full of encouragement for the future. The excellent financial position of the Association is shown by the decision to invest a further sum of £50 in War Bonds.

While on the subject of the Norwich Diocesan Association, it may not be inappropriate to refer to the record, which appears elsewhere in this issue, of the first peal of Grandsire Triples, which was rung at Norwich just 200 years ago next Monday. The war prevented the bi-centenary of the first peal of Bob Triples (rung in 1715) from being celebrated at St. Peter Mancroft, where it was rung, and the same cause may prevent a commemorative peal of Grandsire being attempted there next week, but perhaps it will be possible for some other towers to celebrate the unique event. Had the times been normal we might have had quite a glut of peals in honour of the occasion, but we hope it will not be passed over quite unnoticed. Even the very composition that the Norwich men performed, the result of the genius of John Garthon, is available, and although not quite on the orthodox lines of present day peals, it would not be out of place if it were rung as a centenary celebration.

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.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

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BIRMINGHAM**

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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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Chiming Machines

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OF ALL KINDS.

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BRACKETS.**

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REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES**

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HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Tuesday, August 13, 1918, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
IN ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 6006 CHANCES;

Tenor 17 size in B flat.

ALF. PADDON SMITH	... 1-2	THOMAS RUSSAN	... 7-8
ALBERT WALKER	... 3-4	WILLIAM KENT	... 9-10
JAMES E. GROVES	... 5-6	MORRIS J. MORRIS	... 11-12

Composed by the late HENRY JOHNSON.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee: MR. J. PIGGOTT.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. William Kent.

All the above are members of St. Martin's Church Sunday Service band.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ISLEWORTH.

Under ideal weather conditions, a very enjoyable time was spent by members of the London County Association on Saturday week at All Saints', Isleworth. Ringing was carried on from about 5 to 8.30 p.m., when a large number from various parts of the Metropolis had the opportunity of a pull on this historic peal, including four ladies.

The business meeting, presided over by the Master (Mr. T. H. Taffender), was held at the London Apprentice's hard by, and was also well attended.—Mr. E. V. Everson, of Fakenham, Norfolk, now serving with the A.S.C. at Greenwich, and Mr. Peter Crook, a celebrity, who in peace times was a respected member of the Bolton Police Force, at present stationed at Caterham, and serving with the Machine Gun Corps, attached to the Brigade of Guards, were unanimously elected members.

It was decided to hold a by-meeting at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, Oxford Street, on Saturday, August 24th, commencing at 4 p.m., when it is hoped that ringers generally will avail themselves of this opportunity of paying a visit to hear this fine eight.

The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, September 14th, full particulars of which will appear in the notice column of the 'Ringing World.'

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the authorities of All Saints' for their kindness in permitting the use of the bells, also to Mr. Tom Beadle for his customary kindness and untiring energy in making all arrangements to ensure a most pleasant and successful meeting.

RINGER'S WEDDING AT GLOUCESTER.

An interesting wedding took place at the Parish Church of St. Michael, Gloucester, on Bank Holiday, the bridegroom being Sapper C. H. Austin, R.E., and the bride, Miss Laura Tule.

The marriage service commenced with the hymn, 'The voice that breathed o'er Eden,' and the Rector (the Rev. H. M. Braithwaite, M.A.), who officiated at the ceremony, gave an excellent address. The register having been signed, the happy couple left by the north door to the sound of the bells, and being plentifully besprinkled with confetti. As they proceeded to the station, en route for London, where the honeymoon was spent, the St. Michael's band, assisted by some ringing visitors, rang a touch of Grand Sirs, Caters, while other touches followed during the afternoon at the Church of St. Mary le Crypt, in honour of the occasion. The visiting ringers were from Newport, London, Birmingham, and Coventry, etc. On the following Sunday evening, at St. Mary le Crypt Church, a short farewell touch was rung, the bridegroom taking part in it, while the bride also rang a few rounds. The bridegroom left later in the evening for France, his brother ringers wishing him a safe and speedy return.

The bridegroom is the second son of Mr. John Austin, the well-known ringer and conductor, and past Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—Lancashire Association. — At the Parish Church, on May 25th, for morning service, 560 Bob Major: J. Huddleston 1, Miss E. M. Suart 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Watson 4, W. S. Dennison 5, T. Suart 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. For evening service, 720 Bob Major: T. Watson 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss D. M. Suart 4, J. Huddleston 5, T. Suart 6, W. H. Dennison 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, June 2, for morning service, 560 Bob Major: T. R. Jackson 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss E. M. Suart 4, J. Huddleston 5, T. Watson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. For evening service, 360 Bob Minor: Miss D. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Watson 4, T. R. Jackson (conductor) 5, W. S. Forshaw 6, J. Burrows 7 (cover).

KILLED IN FRANCE.**WELL-KNOWN MONKSILVER RINGER'S DEATH.**

With very much regret, the numerous friends of William Bennett, of Monksilver, will hear that he was killed in action in France on July 20th last. Pte. Bennett, who was formerly coachman to the Rev. Dupuis, of Nettlescombe, joined the colours on the 27th March, 1916, and served first as driver in the Wessex R.M. until December, 1916, when he was transferred to the 2nd Welsh Regiment. After about three weeks training in the Infantry, he sailed for France on January 12th, 1917. He encountered some very severe fighting from time to time, but came through this ordeal safely. He came home on leave in February, 1918, and returned to France a fortnight later. His next experience proved fatal, as he was killed by a shell some distance behind the front line. An officer in his battalion, in reporting his death, states: 'Ever since I joined the battalion, I always found Pte. Bennett very keen and hard-working. It may be some little comfort to his relatives to know that he had a Christian burial, at which I was present.'

As a ringer, 'Billy' was well known and respected throughout the Dunster Deanery branch of the Bath and Wells Association, of which he was a member. He was most enthusiastic in ringing, having himself acquired scientific methods, which, in turn, he taught his band at Monksilver, and they accomplished many peals of 5040, rung in various methods on their little ring of five bells. For peals on eight bells he joined with other bands at Minehead and Dunster, having altogether rung 33 peals, 22 of which he conducted for the Association. He was a regular attendant at Deanery meetings, and was always willing to lend a helping hand at the neighbouring towers. He made many journeys to Carhampton to meet the local band and the Minehead contingent, which included the late Harry Moore, to learn the difficult method 'London Surprise.' It is feared, now these two men have died that this method will fall into disuse in the district.

A memorial service was held at Monksilver, on Sunday evening, August 11th, and the little church was filled with relations and friends. The service opened with Beethoven's Funeral March. Mr. E. Sangar, an old friend of deceased's, presiding at the organ. The first part of the burial service was sung by the Rev. T. F. Page, locum tenens for the Rev. H. Gardner McTaggart. Special Psalms, 23rd and 46th, were rendered, and the first lesson was read by Mr. Sweet, and the second by Mr. Page. Special prayers followed, and hymn 235 was sung. Then the last part of the burial service was read, and hymn 230 was next sung.—The Rev. F. T. Page announced that he had just received a telegram from the Rector, asking that the collection should be taken for a memorial to William Bennett. An eloquent and touching address was based upon St. John xv. 13, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' In the course of this address, Mr. Page referred to the fact that in his home and village Bennett was honoured and respected by all who knew him, and that he was a faithful servant to his master and a good son to his father and mother. In his church life he was a regular worshipper, and a hard worker for the church. He was painstaking and thorough as a bell-ringer—in fact, he was a king of bell ringers. In his soldier's life he had done his duty to King George as in his everyday life he had been a soldier of Christ.

At the special request of Pte. Bennett's parents, the hymn, 'Lead, kindly light,' was sung, and the service concluded with Handel's 'Dead March in Saul.'

A wreath from his brother ringers had been placed on a stand covered by the Union Jack at the foot of the chancel, with a card bearing the inscription: 'In memory of a true friend and comrade.'

Ringers from Carhampton, Minehead, Withycombe, Winsford, Sampford Brett, and Stogumber, attended to render a last service to an old comrade, and several touches were rung before and after the service, with bells half-muffled.

Pte. A. Case, of the London Irish Rifles, who previous to joining the colours about 10 months ago, was a ringer at Langport, Somerset, was killed in France on August 6th. He was only 19 years of age. For morning service, at Langport Parish Church, on Sunday last 720 Grandstre Doubles were rung for morning service, with the bells half-muffled: 1. J. Lloyd (conductor) 1. T. W. Creed 2. W. T. Jones 3. F. Westlake 4. F. Locke 5. H. Westlake 6.

EWERBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On May 25th, on the occasion of a combined practice, 504 Stedman Triples and 384 Bob Major: Air-Mechanic J. Bragg, Air-Mechanic S. J. Riddell, J. T. Holmes, F. W. Stokes, Flight-Sergeant F. A. Holden, C. Ward, W. Dickinson, W. Wood. Afterwards, 1511 Grandstre Caters: S. G. Skinner 1. S. J. Riddell 2. W. Wood 3. J. T. Holmes 4. F. W. Stokes 5. J. Bragg 6. F. A. Holden (conductor) 7. W. Dickinson 8. C. Ward 9. G. Smith 10. Composed by Wm. Marks, Leatherhead.

MITCHAM.—On Sunday, May 26th, for evening service, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (composed by C. Charge): W. S. Smith 1. J. D. Drowett 2. A. Clayton 3. C. R. Grimwood 4. C. Bance 5. A. Colver 6. W. H. Joiner (conductor) 7. J. Ourrell 8.

SAFETY CHIMING APPARATUS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your leading article of August 16th, you mentioned a suggestion of a practical nature that was put forward some time ago by Mr. J. R. Jerram, of Salisbury, viz., a locking arrangement which would prevent the doors, enclosing the chiming apparatus being shut, when the hammers are in action. I would like to say that Messrs. John Warner and Sons have installed a good many of these in various churches up and down the country. They are constructed with this special feature to prevent as far as possible such a disaster as the Rev. C. E. Matthews wrote to you about. The rail across the case with chime ropes attached is kept nearly to the front of the case when in action; this prevents doors from being closed.—Yours faithfully,

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

J. HUNT.

ANOTHER DEVICE.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—With regard to the arrangement for preventing chiming apparatus from being left in gear, which I recommended some time ago, and which you allude to in your article of the 16th inst., I may say that there is also an arrangement by which the door of the chamber in which the manual is fixed may be connected by a rod with a crank, which knocks the pawl out of the ratchet wheel when the door is opened. It is necessary to shut the door before the apparatus can be put into gear, and as soon as the chimer opens it to go downstairs the hammers are immediately thrown out of gear. This device is useful where the manual is not enclosed in a lock-up case.

I may say that it is always best to have the manual in the ringing floor. It often happens that, where the bells are rung from the floor above, the manual is fixed in the church below for the convenience of the chimer. This arrangement is always attended with more or less danger.—Yours, etc.,

Salisbury, August 19th, 1918.

J. R. JERRAM.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**A MEETING ON THE ISLAND.**

A very pleasant ringing meeting was held at Ryde, on Bank Holiday last. Owing to the wet weather and restricted boat accommodation, not many travelled from the mainland. The bells of All Saints' Church were set going soon after two o'clock, and the probationers had a fine practice. Then the Newport band arrived, and with three of the Ryde company and Mr. Brinklow, from Oxhey, Herts; Mr. Rowe, from Herisham; Gunner Twyman, from Southsea; three probationers from Wickham, and three probationers and two ringers from Portsea, made up the total company. Some very nice touches of Grandstre Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major were brought round, conducted by Mr. Ward (Ryde), Mr. Jennings (Newport), Messrs. Harri, and Harding (Portsea), and Mr. Brinklow (Oxhey). Treble Bob Major was then practised, and the plain course almost brought round, and we may look forward to the Newport band accomplishing that method before long under the leadership of Mr. Jennings. As the boat left at 5.40, time did not permit of any tea or meeting, and as the visitors left the pier the bells were still going to Grandstre Triples, which had a very pleasing effect. Although it had been a wet and miserable day, it did not mar the pleasure of the ringers, who left with the satisfaction of something attempted, something done.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A MACCLESFIELD RINGER.

The Macclesfield Parish Church company has sustained a severe loss by the tragically sudden death of Alfred Mottershead. Deceased was at his post ringing for service on Sunday evening, August 11th, apparently in his usual health. On the following day he died suddenly at his work. The news came as a great shock to all who knew him, as he was the picture of health. At the inquest, which was held, the medical evidence showed that death was due to syncope, caused by fatty degeneration of the heart.

It is just about 25 years since Mr. Mottershead started ringing, and he had been a regular ringer, with one short break, for 23 years. He had taken part in nine peals altogether. He was most regular in attendance, both for practice and service ringing, and it was a rare thing for him to be either late or absent.

The funeral took place on Thursday, August 15th, at the Macclesfield Cemetery, four of the deceased's brother ringers acting as bearers. There were many floral tributes, the one from the local band being in the form of a bell. After the coffin had been lowered into the grave, the hymn, 'Rock of Ages,' was sung, and the handbells were rung for a short time. A touch of Grandstre Triples was afterwards rung on the Parish Church bells, which were muffled. On the following evening, a quarter-peal was attempted, with the bells half-muffled, but was lost owing to a miss call.

SOUTH HACKNEY.—At St. John's Church, on Sunday, May 26th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 48 mins.: C. Stephenson 1. W. A. Alps (conductor) 2. A. A. Hughes 3. G. J. Smith 4. R. Sanders 5. R. G. Fenn 6. H. G. Alford 7. A. Riley 8.

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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

METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

MR. TROLLOPE AND THE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—Mr. Davies maintains all his complaints and strictures to the full. So be it. I especially note the word 'all' and if and when I am able to attend another Council meeting, I shall have a word or two to say. Meanwhile, I will try and answer in some sort one or two of his questions.

Mr. Davies is a clever man, and a recognised authority on some things in ringing. He knows as much as anyone, and much more than all but a very few, about peals of Grandsire Triples. He knows a good deal about Stedman Triples—far more than I do. But, like the rest of mankind, his knowledge is not so great in some things as in others. He has never troubled himself much about Major methods, and the questions of method construction were, until lately, no concern of his. He took no part in the many controversies which led to the appointing of the Method Committee, and had no interest whatever in what it did or he many discussions in which it was concerned. Herein he was in the company of many thousands of other ringers. They did not bother themselves about the matter. Only once he started (so we are told) to work out some Treble Bob methods, but apparently this was just an isolated incident. (I may, perhaps, point out that the ability to write out a few methods does not necessarily involve any knowledge of method construction.) Then he visited Mr. John Carter and took one of these methods to ring on his machine. So far so good. But Mr. Law James saw this method and expressed his opinion of it. He did more; he expressed it in the full Law James' manner. And then, as the saying goes, the fat was in the fire. Mr. Davies now realised that not only his own cherished method, but actually Union Triples also was included in the condemnation. With that, his soul boiled within him. He laughed a scornful laugh, and summoned his varlet. 'Bring me my tomahawk,' he said, 'before the night falls I will have Law James' scalp!'

Now, though I do not myself share the feeling, I can understand the thirst some men have for Mr. James' blood. I understand, I say. I do not say I justify or excuse. There it is. But I do submit that it is hardly an adequate reason for attacking the honesty and ability of quite other people, or for running amok among the work they have patiently been doing for years.

And anyway a dislike of Mr. James' manner and a prejudice in favour of Union Triples do not make a man an authority on method construction. These, however, are Mr. Davies' chief qualifications. This will, perhaps, explain somewhat my use of the word 'ignorant.' Yet since I am not in the habit of being personal in controversy, may I say that I did not intend the word in any offensive sense, and that I used it at a time when my patience had sorely been tried. For one hour and a half—ninety weary minutes—I had had to listen to a tedious flow of words, of which the whole tenor and purport was that I and my colleagues were incompetent fools and knaves. That speech contained quite a number of surprisingly silly things (surprisingly silly, that is, for a man of Mr. Davies' ability). Such, for instance, as when he gravely informed us that in Double Norwich you have a course-bell up behind, but when you come away down toward the front you meet that bell coming up to pass you in the middle. Still, though my patience was tried, I did not, as I say, use the word in any offensive sense. I meant merely that Mr. Davies was talking about what he did not understand. After all, you don't gain knowledge in this matter, any more than in any other, from prejudice and intuition. You have to take trouble and learn.

I am just a little amused at Mr. Davies' demand, that I should 'once for all, in plain black and white, give some adequate explanation' of method construction. The demand strikes me as a trifle cool. Time back, when I thought he really wanted to argue the matter, and before I realised that he had dug up the hatchet and was out for blood, I placed all these explanations, proofs and illustrations at his full disposal. He curtly declined them. He wanted to smash the Method Committee, not to understand it. To tear it limb from limb, to cast it a mockery and a sham before the scornful eyes of the Exercise. Especially Mr. Law James. Always, especially Mr. Law James. And now? I should have thought that by this time rumours of a war being on would have penetrated even into his quiet and secluded country rectory. If he came out here he would find that there is some foundation for the rumour. Does he think I carry a reference library about with me? or that up in the line here is a suitable place to draw up a complex scientific statement. And if I did would it do any good? I doubt it. You can't convince any man who has made up his mind that he is not going to be convinced. Why try then? I hope I shall be able to make the statement one day. I have been working at it for twenty years, and it is practically ready. When it is made it will not be made in controversy, nor to prove anybody is wrong or even that I am right.—Yours truly,

B.E.F., France, August 12th, 1918. J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THANKS.

The Editor thanks the many correspondents who have sent their good wishes for his restoration to health. He has now returned to his duties, much benefited by the course of treatment which he has undergone.

BI-CENTENARY OF FIRST PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

THE RECORD AND THE COMPOSITION.

A most interesting anniversary falls on Monday next, and in ordinary times would doubtless have called for special commemoration. This is no other than the 200th anniversary of the first peal of Grandsire Triples, which was rung at St. Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich, on August 26th, 1718. The peal is thus recorded in the tower:—

On the 26th of August, 1718, was rung that Harmonious Peal called Grandsire Triples, which have been ye study of ye most ingenious men of this Age who delight in ye art of Variations, but all their projections have proved errors until it was undertook by JOHN GARTHON, who, with long Study and Practice, have perfectly discovered those Intricate methods which were hidden from the eyes of all the ringers in England; the extent of this peal being 5,040 changes, have oftentimes been rung with changes alike, but the first time that ever it was rung true, was in three hours and a half, without any changes alike or a bell out of course, by these men whose names are underwritten against their Bells as they rung:—James Brook, treble, John Briggs 2nd, William Patmar 3rd, Robert Crane 4th, Honory Howard 5th, Wm. Callow 6th, Tho. Melchior 7th, Tho. Barrett tenor.

The composition of this peal has been preserved to us, and is thus given in Snowdon's 'Grandsire':—

First Quarter Peal.				Second Quarter Peal.			
234567	1	2	3	435267	1	2	3
247563	—	*	—	357462	—	—	—
273564	—	*	—	372465	—	*	—
734265	—	—	—	725364	—	—	—
345762	—	—	—	254763	—	—	—
452367	—	—	—	543267	—	—	—
427365	—	*	—	537264	—	*	—
275463	—	—	—	574263	—	*	—
753264	—	—	—	743562	—	—	—
534762	—	—	—	432765	—	—	—
342567	—	—	—	325467	—	—	—

The above twice repeated will come round at the quarter-peal end, but by substituting a fifth's-place bob for the common one at the 30th course-end, the course-end 1435267 will be produced.

The above ten courses twice repeated, substituting a bob-single for the common bob at the 60th course - end, produces 1432567, the end of the first half peal.

Fifth's place Bob		Bob-Single	
6413725	—	3412576	—
6147352	—	3145267	—
1674325	—	1345276	—
1763452	—	1432567	—
7164325	—	4135276	—
7613452	—	4312567	—

Shipway, in his 'Art of Kinging,' published in 1818, says concerning the first peal of Grandsire Triples:—

From the earliest period of this entertaining art, in all parts of the Kingdom, the peal of Grandsire Triples appears to have engaged considerable attention, and to have been anxiously sought, though without success, by many eminent practitioners; who were at last inclined to consider as fruitless any attempt which had for its object the attainment of 5040 true changes. The honour of this valuable production, it seems, is claimed both by Norwich and London. The state of the controversy is as follows:—

On the part of Norwich it is said that the 5040 was the study of the most ingenious men of the age, and that all was error till John Garthon, of that city, after considerable perseverance, discovered what had been so long hidden from the eyes of all ringers in England. It was also stated that the peal was rung at St. Peter's Mancroft, Norwich, on the 26th August, 1718.

On the part of London it is asserted in "The Clavis," that had it not been for Mr. John Holt, this valuable treasure had probably been at this moment fast locked up in the barren womb of sterile obscurity, and that the peal was first rung by the Union Scholars, London, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on the 17th of July, 1751.

Without pretending to decide, I shall briefly remark that if the peal had been rung in Norwich, in 1718, it appears unaccountably strange that information on so important a discovery had not reached London in 1751, and that the composition of the same peal should then have been considered original and generally attributed to Mr. Holt. It is also further remarkable that of the three peals, viz.: Bob Triples in 1715; Grandsire Triples in 1718; and Stedman Triples in 1731, said to have been rung at St. Peter's Mancroft, not one can be found to ascertain the truth, whereas Mr. Holt's peals are universally rung and indisputably correct.

Commenting on Shipway's remarks, the late Mr. Jasper Snowdon, in whose researches the Exercise owes so much, says in 'Grandsire':—

From Shipway's remarks it will be seen that he did not know

anything further than what could be gathered from the pages of "The Clavis," and indeed he only condemns the Norwich peal by default—no record of the composition having been preserved. As he remarks, it would have been strange if the Norwich peal had not been known in London before 1751; I think, however, that it can be shown that not only was the Norwich peal known, but that it had been rung in London many years before that time. Shipway then gives and reviews the peals of Holt previously alluded to after which follows the bob and single peal from "The Clavis." This peal he states to be "By an unknown author." From this it is evident that the peal was not one of Mr. Holt's, or it would have been classed with his other discoveries, as they all seem to have been well known. It is also improbable that it was the production of a Londoner, or his name would have been known to Shipway. It would also for that reason appear to have been composed some time before Shipway's connection with change ringing, or surely he would have known who was its author, especially had it been composed in London, because there were many old ringers alive when Shipway wrote, who could have thrown some light on the subject. Of its origin, had it been of any recent date, these men would also have heard had it been claimed as the production of any of the Metropolitan section. It is very strange that Shipway, who, from the different notes of first performances, etc., to be found in his book, always seems to have been well posted in all such matters, should have dismissed this peal without any remark or conjecture as to the date of its origin, or the name of its composer, as it is composed upon a plan which I shall hereafter show to be as old as the Norwich peal.

Mr. Snowdon then goes on to show how a manuscript of the figures given above came into his hands, indirectly, through the late Henry Hubbard, from a person in Nottingham who claimed relationship with Garthon. He adds that, after examining the peal: 'The conclusion I came to was that, on account of the variety of calls used the composition had not met with the approval of those who had not been connected with its performance, and that in accordance with the proverb, "Give a dog a bad name, etc." from a mere condemnation of the composition of this account, its reputation had suffered so severely that its character as to truth had at length been affected, and thus eventually the peal had come to be handed about as a false composition. There was one interesting fact, however, established by the production of this peal, and that was the antiquity of the three-lead course plan of composition.

When the early date at which the Norwich peal was rung is taken into consideration, I think it must be allowed that it was a most creditable composition, and until supplanted by a less complicated production, was well adapted to supply the want of a true and complete 5040 in this method. My readers from the evidence now before them may think that I am taking for granted, without sufficient proof, that the composition obtained from Hubbard was the actual one rung at Norwich. Since the peal first came into my hands through this channel, additional evidence as to its identity with the Norwich has, however, come to light.

This evidence Mr. Snowdon proceeds to give, coupled with records of peals of Grandsire rung in the years intervening between 1718 and 1751, which makes the matter pretty conclusive.

Perhaps, even though it is war time, there will be some tower in the country where the bi-centenary may be celebrated next Monday.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HARLINGTON.

A merry party, whose number was below the average, met at Harlington on Saturday last, when the ring of six bells gave out their tones, and semijones to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Minor, several of the ladies present; taking part. One is sure to get a genial welcome at Harlington, and the Vicar (the Rev. H. Wilson) met the first arrivals at the church, took tea with the ringers, and afterwards presided at the meeting.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for his great kindness, to which he suitably replied.—The District Master (Mr. T. Beadle) was present, and seconded a proposition made by Mr. C. Edwards (West Ealing), that two local ringers—Mrs. F. M. Newman and Miss M. E. Newman—be enrolled as members of the Association. These ladies, together with Miss Sybil Howard, kindly arranged the tea so much enjoyed by all. Miss Nora Williams and Miss Felcham cycled from Hillingdon, and H. Brooks and a juvenile came from Isleworth. During the ringing a good touch of 216 Kent Treble Bob was tapped off, by: T. Beadle 1. W. Lawrence 2. J. Payne 3. C. Bird 4. H. C. Chandler 5. George M. Kilby (conductor) 6.

A NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT.

In connection with the handbell peal at Birmingham, recorded elsewhere in this issue, it is interesting to note that it was rung by six members of St. Martin's Sunday service band. This band, twelve in number, have now rung a peal of Stedman Cinques on the tower bells at St. Martin's, and a peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells in the belfry. This is probably a new record.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HILLINGDON.—Middlesex Association.—On Saturday, May 25th at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins.: Miss Emmé Fuller 1, W. H. Hewett 2, T. Smith 3, W. Henley 4, J. J. Pratt (conductor) 5, A. Mason 6, W. Lawrence 7, W. J. Bateman 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Fuller. Afterwards, touches of Stedman, Grandsire, Treble Bob and Double Norwich, in which Misses G. Bateman, W. M. Cooper, F. Gudgin and Miss D. G. Feltham and G. Gutteridge took part.

CAVERSHAM, OXON.—On Sunday, May 26th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): Mrs. A. E. Reeves 1, W. Hibbert 2, G. Essex 3, R. T. Hibbert 4, Lieut. A. E. Reeves 5, E. J. Menday 6, E. W. Menday (conductor) 7, H. Simmonds 8; and on Tuesday, May 28th, 672 Bob Major: Miss D. Batten 1, L. Osborne 2, Miss E. Goodship 3, A. Wiggins 4, A. W. Osborne 5, R. S. Hibbert (conductor) 6, H. Egby 7, W. Hibbert 8; and 504 Stedman Triples: Miss D. Batten 1, L. Osborne 2, A. W. Osborne 3, A. Wiggins 4, W. Hibbert 5, R. S. Hibbert (conductor) 6, H. Egby 7, H. Simmonds 8. These two touches were rung on the 18th birthday of W. Hibbert, all the band wishing him many more happy and prosperous years.—On Sunday evening, June 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): G. Essex 1, E. W. Menday 2, J. Hands 3, R. S. Hibbert 4, W. Hibbert (conductor) 5, H. Smith 6, E. J. Menday 7, H. Simmonds 8. Rung as a farewell touch to the conductor, who joined the colours on Wednesday, the 12th June.

CAVERSHAM, OXON.—On Tuesday, May 28th, 672 Bob Major: Miss D. Batten 1, L. Osborne 2, G. Essex 3, A. W. Osborne 4, A. Wiggins 5, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 6, H. Simmonds 7, W. Hibbert 8; and 504 Stedman Triples: Miss D. Batten 1, L. Osborne 2, G. Essex 3, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 4, A. W. Osborne 5, A. Wiggins 6, W. Hibbert 7, H. Simmonds 8. The two touches were rung on the 18th birthday of W. Hibbert, all the band wishing him the usual compliments.—On Sunday, June 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 47 mins.: H. W. Smith 1, E. W. Menday 2, J. Hands 3, R. T. Hibbert 4, W. Hibbert (conductor) 5, G. Essex 6, E. J. Menday 7, H. Simmonds 8. This quarter-peal was rung as a farewell to the conductor on his last visit to the tower as a civilian.

WRAXALL.—On May 30th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. Staley 1, Miss M. C. N. Jukes 2, Miss A. Stokes 3, Miss E. M. Hole 4, E. Goldstone 5, Miss N. Gillingham 6, W. Gillingham (conductor) 7, J. Nisbet 8.

SHREWSBURY.—St. Chad's Society.—On Sunday, June 1st, at St. Chad's Church, for evening service, 572 of Kent Treble Bob Major with 8—10 covering: G. Scarrat 1, Pte. G. Burrows 2, G. Byolin 3, W. Brooks 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, A. Pulluck 7, H. Jones 8, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 9, J. Evans 10. Also 168 of Stedman Triples, with 9, 8, 10 covering.—On May 25th, 352 Bob Major: R. Turner 1, G. Byolin 2, W. Brooks 3, G. Scarrat 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, C. Burrows 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8.

HALLOW, WORCESTER.—On Sunday, June 2nd, for evening service, in 48 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: C. Bowkett 1, T. Lane 2, W. Lewis (first quarter) 3, W. Rouse 4, T. Bullock 5, G. Cheeketts (conductor) 6, G. Jacob (first quarter) 7, J. Batchelor 8.

ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, June 2nd, at St. Denis Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Bishop, junr., 1, A. Piper 2, T. Lade 3, H. M. Smith 4, H. R. Butler 5, C. Brazier 6, Jas. Hart (conductor) 7, E. Bishop, senr., 8.

EYESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, June 2nd, at the Abbey Tower, for morning service, in 53 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1259 changes): G. J. Hemming (first quarter) 1, J. Hemming 2, H. J. Phipps 3, H. Jordan 4, F. Johnson 5, C. W. Jones 6, F. Jordan 7, G. Cheeketts (conductor) 8, E. Watkins 9, F. Jinks 10.

ANOTHER VISIT TO SOMERSET VILLAGES.

The second of the cycling trips to the village towers was made in beautiful weather on a recent Sunday. The first place visited was Shaplegrove, and here the party consisted of Messrs. W. Sealey, Bishops Lydeard; F. Pole, Fitzhead; A. Tout, A. C. Harvey, Milverton; H. V. Young and G. Jones, Chipstable. After about 30 minutes' ringing on the light peal of five, the party moved on to West Manckton. Here they were met by some of the local men, and in a few minutes the beautiful peal of six was set going. The ringing was greatly enjoyed, it being the best toned peal yet visited, and if augmented would make a very fine peal of eight, the tenor being 20 cwt. A few minutes' spin brought the party to Durston, where there is a very light peal of five, so light indeed that it proved the undoing of some of the heavy-weight ringers. North Curry, the next stopping place, was reached at 5.30, and with the assistance of two local men, Messrs. F. Case and T. Dare, the peal of eight was kept going until service time. The last place to be visited was North Petherton, which was reached at 7.45. The fine peal of six (tenor 21 cwt.) was kept going till 8.30, when the visitors retired to the Clarence Hotel for refreshment, which had been thoughtfully provided by the curate-in-charge, the Rev. Lockyer, a kindness much appreciated. The weather being all that could be desired, the trip was more enjoyable, from a cyclist point of view, than the previous one.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, August 24th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting 6.30.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Kettering District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Barton Seagrave on Saturday, August 24th. Bells ready at 3; service at 4.30. Arrangements will be made at 5 o'clock for a cup of tea, but please bring own rations.—Walter T. Wilson, District Sec., The Pines, Isham, near Kettering.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting of the Guild will be held at Rye, Sussex, on Saturday, August 24th. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore, Ashford, Kent.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Farnham on Saturday, August 24th. Bells (8) available from 2.30—4 and 6.30—8.30. By kind invitation of the Lord Bishop of Winchester, the Castle Grounds will be open to members at 4 p.m. Service will be held in the Castle Chapel at 5; tea to follow.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Guildford.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society), Estab. 1824.—A by-meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, Oxford Street, W., on Saturday, August 24th, from 4 to 8 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 50, Cannon Street, E.C. 4.

LADIES' GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Stoke Poges Church on Saturday, August 24th. Tower open from 3 p.m. Bus leaves Slough station about 2.45. Service at 5 p.m.; followed by tea at 6 p.m. Will all those intending to be present for tea kindly notify Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Strawberry Cottage, Fulmer, Slough, *not later than* August 21st?—E. K. Parker, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, on Saturday, August 24th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 7; business very important. A good attendance is requested from all towers.—J. H. Haydock, 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Waldron to-morrow (Saturday), August 24th. Ringing from 3 o'clock until sunset. Tea by kind invitation of the Rector, Canon Humble-Crofts. Short service after tea and business meeting.—Geo. H. Howse, Div. Sec., 'Kenilworth,' Latimer Road, Eastbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The usual monthly meeting will be held at Whitworth on Saturday, August 31st. Bells available from 3 o'clock till dusk; business meeting at 6 p.m.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next quarterly meeting of the Guild will be held at St. Luke's, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, Sept. 7th. The bells will be available from 3 o'clock; service in church at 4.30, to be conducted by the Vicar, who will also preside at the business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Twyford on Saturday, August 31st.—J. W. Elkins, District Sec.

THE LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Almondsbury, Glos., on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells available from 3 p.m.; tea and meeting to follow. Members and friends cordially invited. Will those who require tea, kindly notify me not later than Sept. 2nd? —N. Gillingham, Portishead, Somerset.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting and 8-bell contest will take place at Brighouse on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Draw for order of ringing at 2.45. *No refreshments provided.*—W. Frith, Sec., 5, Lufton Street, Birkby, Huddersfield.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next and last meeting of this summer series will be held at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Twelve bells available from 3 o'clock.—Sam. Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. T. Walker, Hon. Sec. of the London County Association, has removed to 50, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Mr. William Willson, senr., having joined the Royal Air Force, Mr. J. Morris, 11, Devonshire Street, Leicester, is now Secretary of the Leicester District.

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.

RINGERS ENTERTAINED AT REIGATE.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, by kind permission, the bell ringers from Immanuel and St. Leonard's Churches, Streatham, rang some merry touches on the bells at the Parish Church, Reigate. At the invitation of Mr. A. Lorkin, who, by the way, is an enthusiastic campanologist, the party proceeded to Somersfield Cottage, London Road, Reigate, where they were entertained to tea. Afterwards an interesting discussion took place on the merits of various methods of bell ringing. Mr. Daniels, who was one of the party, conducts the ringing at Immanuel Church, Streatham. Mr. Shepherd, another of the party, also rang from the same place, and is now in his 73rd year. Both spoke most highly of the tone of the bells in the Parish Church, Reigate. During the discussion, Mr. Shepherd stated that over 50 years ago he had rung the bells at Immanuel Church, Streatham, and on that occasion the peal consisted of 5040 changes, taking 3 hrs. 20 mins. to complete. It appears that Reigate is at present very short of bell ringers, two old friends having passed away during the last three months, and for whom half-muffled peals were rung. The ringers on Saturday were accompanied by a few of the Reigate members, and at the conclusion of the gathering, Mr. Lorkin was thanked for his hospitality in so heartily entertaining the ringers. The opportunity was taken to comment on the historic nature of the town, and the beautiful surroundings of Reigate.—Mr. Lorkin suitably replied, and expressed the hope that it would not be long before he again had the pleasure of welcoming them to Reigate. The members present then returned to London by train, after having spent a most enjoyable day.

OATLANDS, SURREY.—On Sunday, June 2nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), from Holt's Original: Miss Ida Woodrow 1, P. L. Miles (Kensington) 2, C. E. Lathbury 3, D. A. Rowe 4, A. Diserens (Sunbury) 5, F. Shepherd, senr., 6, F. J. Shepherd (conductor) 7, R. Snow 8. At the conclusion, the Vicar and Mrs. Verd Leigh entered the belfry and congratulated the band on the good striking, they having been listeners outside.

LONDON.—On Sunday, June 2nd, for morning service, at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: C. Clarke 1, A. S. Beer 2, H. Hawkins (conductor) 3, F. W. Thornton 4, I. G. Shade 5, H. Hoskins 6, T. Jakoman 7, Pte. C. V. Ebberson, A.S.O., 8.

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