

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 60. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. II.

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1883.

[ONE PENNY.]

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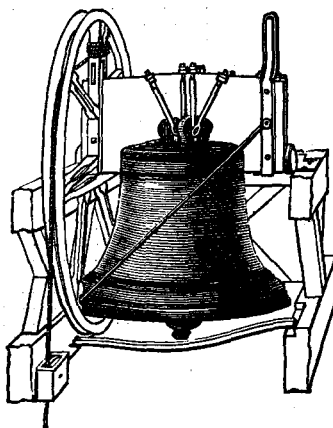
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CHURCHES ON THE MISSBOURNE STREAM, BUCKS.

On looking at a map of Buckinghamshire, in the southern district, the course of the Missbourne will be readily perceived, and that there are five churches and one abbey near its banks, during the course of the sixteen miles that it runs, previous to discharging its waters into the River Colne.

Half-a-mile from the junction of these two streams is situated the village of Denham and its church. As I purpose taking the religious edifices as they come in their respective orders, I will briefly describe this. Denham is situated two and a quarter miles from Uxbridge and seven from Beaconsfield; through it the Grand Junction Canal passes; its parish is divided from Middlesex by the Colne. This village is irregular and old fashioned, and was the scene of the ever to be remembered "Denham murder." Pope lived here some considerable time, and he completed his translation of "Æneid" during his residence in the village.

The church of S. Mary is a Gothic building lately restored, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles and tower, with clock and a fine set of eight bells, the Rev. Charles Antil Hall, M.A., being rector.

In the year 1799 there existed a good band of change-ringers at Windsor. This society rang a "true and complete" peal of Grandsire Triples upon these bells on September 15th, 1799, in 3 hrs. 12 mins., the following being the performers: Hen. Sedgwick, 1; Wm. Darwent, 2; Jos. Avis, 3; Ric. Ball, 4; John Thompson, 5; Ric. Lovegrove, 6; Thos. Lovegrove, 7; W. Wise and C. Prentice, 8. There is no tablet in the belfry to record this peal, and the only mention to be found of it is a note at the bottom of a peal-board at St. John's church, Windsor. In 1773, the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5040 Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 16 mins. The tablet to record this is in a very dilapidated condition, and sadly requires a renovating hand. There is an ancient font in the church, and several ancient brasses to R. Peckham, and another perpetuating the memory of Sir Edmund Peckham, and Anne, his wife, A.D. 1564. Sir Edmund was privy councillor to Queen Mary, and during the brief reign of Lady Jane Grey he was one of the first to raise troops in Buckinghamshire to place Mary upon the throne, with the assistance of Sir Robert Drury, Sir Edward Hastings, Lord Windsor, and others. His death occurred just ten years after Lady Jane was beheaded on Tower Hill. Denham Court is remarkable as being the place where Charles II. was concealed by Lady Bower. The next church we find is

CHALFONT S. PETER,

dedicated to that saint, erected in the reign of George I., and comprises chancel, nave, south chapel, and tower with six bells. The east end has been enlarged in the early pointed Gothic style. It contains three memorial windows to the Wells and Hibbert families. The Vicar is the Rev. George Martin Bullock, B.D., and the register dates from the year 1528.

The 2nd bell of the peal here is cracked. The leading article in "THE BELL NEWS" of October 21st might well be applied to the ringers of this little village, who are trying their best to get the 2nd bell recast. They have received an estimate for the work, and the subscriptions for defraying such expense have, at the time I write, reached the sum of £28. The ringers have already devoted several sums of money received by them for ringing at weddings to this object. With the help of the worthy and energetic Vicar it will not be long before such a desirable work is accomplished.

CHALFONT S. GILES,

Twenty-three miles from London, four from Beaconsfield, and three from Amersham, is an ancient structure, very plain, with a tower originally Norman. It contains brasses to the Gardiner and Fleetwood families, and the tomb of Hare, Bishop of Chichester and Dean of St. Paul's.

In 1665 John Milton resided in this village, the house in which he lived in still stands, with his name and coat of arms over the doorway. "Paradise Lost" was completed in this house, and it is affirmed that "Paradise Regained" was composed, under many difficulties, in the same building. (See "Milton's Poetical Works," by Rev. T. Thomson.) Ainsworth's "Old Saint Paul's" is a book well calculated to give one an idea of the Plague of London—it was to escape the ravages of this fearful scourge that Milton retired to Buckinghamshire; the inhabitants of that county can thank his friend Mr. Elwood for procuring the honored visit of this renowned poet, who at that time had entirely lost his sight. These last two villages are very similar to each other, both situate in a very pleasant valley, through which the stream runs babbling along. One can just discern the gray stone tower nestling among the old-fashioned houses that the last village principally consists of. The tower is 13 ft. 6 in. square, and contains a peal of six bells, with inscriptions (of no particular interest) upon them. The treble is hoisted. The next place we arrive at is

AMERSHAM.

Here we find a large market town, and a polling-place for the county, with houses of nearly all the same description, and similar to those at Denham, lying in a fertile valley twenty-six miles from London,

seven from High Wycombe, eight from Berkhamstead, five from Beaconsfield, and three from Chesham. The church of St. Mary is an extremely ancient edifice, built in a handsome Gothic style, though now disfigured with an external coat of plaster. I hear this objectionable eyesore is about to be removed, and the church restored. It has a fine lofty nave, north and south aisles, and a spacious chancel, with carved stone reredos. Several elaborate marble and stone monumental tombs are also present: to the left is the family tomb-house of the Drakes, in which the remains of Thomas Thyrwhitt Drake are interred. He represented the town of Amersham for twenty-seven years in Parliament. A large marble monument is erected to his memory. There are numerous other monuments and brasses to the descendants and relatives of this family: one to his son, Arthur Thyrwhitt Drake (late Lieut.-Col. in the Guards), who died suddenly on his marriage-day: another to his only surviving daughter, who lived at Slough many years. The present Rector, the Rev. E. T. Drake, is a descendant of the family. The register dates from the year 1651. The tower is situate at the west end, a very grand structure, 19 ft. 6 in. square internally, and over 76 ft. high. The sexton, Mr. Priest, I found an easy-going old gentleman, in his 77th year, having been in office over fifty years. He was unable to mount the stairs with me, so Mr. Elburn, the head ringer, kindly assisted me to get what particulars I wished connected with the bells, of which there are six, tenor 24 cwt. The old 3rd bell of this peal was cracked while ringing for the marriage of the present squire Drake's father, and was replaced by him. There is ample room for a peal of ten in this tower, and it is surprising that a town possessing the importance of Amersham, having such a fine church, should be content with only a peal of six; surely a ring of eight ought to be the least such a tower should possess.

The town principally consists of two main thoroughfares, crossing each other at right angles in the centre, at this juncture stands the market-place and town-hall, built (A.D. 1665) of solid red brickwork, the upper part supported by bold arches. The clock attached to the building is old and very interesting, and strikes upon a bell of foreign manufacture. It was cast in Holland soon after the erection of the building, and has coins of the period cast round the shoulder.

Sir William Drake founded (A.D. 1657) six almshouses for the same number of poor widows of farmers and tradesmen, who receive seven shillings per week, and a new gown every two years; one-and-fourpence on the shortest, and four-and-fourpence on the longest day annually. Fairs are held every Whit-Monday and on September 19th.

"Churchyard Bob" is performed every Tuesday night at Amersham church. Mr. Elburn, who is an old member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, has often tried to introduce change-ringing, but of no avail; "you can take a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink," is an old saying—but suppose he was kept without till he did.

But it's getting late, the Missbourne stream is hurrying on, and so must I.

I chatter over stony ways, in little sharps and trebles,
I bubble into eddying bays, I babble on the pebbles,
I chatter, chatter, as I flow, to join the brimming river,
For men may come, and men may go, but I go on for ever.

The two remaining churches on our course are

LITTLE AND GREAT MISSENDEN.

The former has a small plain church, dedicated to S. John the Baptist, the services being performed by the Rev. Denis Carey, B.A.; it was repaired in 1853, and consists of chancel, nave, aisles, and lofty square tower, with four fine-toned bells. Great Missenden is two and a half miles from Little Missenden, six from High Wycombe, and four from Chesham. The church, which is cruciform, in the Early English style of architecture, is very ancient, having nave, aisles, and transepts, and tower with six bells. The register dates from 1694. The vicar is the Rev. Joshua Greaves, M.A.

It is a painful fact that very little change-ringing is done in this district, indeed I don't hear of a single 720 ever being performed upon any of the rings of bells described in this account. I see no reason why this should continue so, the bells all going fairly well. Some of the Slough and Farnham ringers must visit these churches, when we may hear of some improvement thereat.

Lastly, I will allude to the old Abbey—a monastic institution founded in the 12th century.

I looked far back into other years, and lo! in bright array,
I saw, as in a dream, the forms of ages passed away,
It was a stately convent with its old and lofty walls;

No sound of busy life was heard, save from the cloister dim,
The tinkling of the silver bell, or the sisters' holy hymn.

The remains exist now of its old grandeur. Like many similar establishments erected about the same time, it was speedily dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII. Even as I gazed at the ruins, I thought—

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart, once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rods of empires might have swayed,
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

I must once more refer to Gray, before I cry "that's all," to the account of my peregrinations up the Missbourne—

Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight.

W. H. F.

WHIT-MONDAY AT SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

THE usual festivity which is generally held at this little Hertfordshire town on Easter-Monday, was this year postponed—through other ringing meetings being held in the vicinity on that day—till Whit-Monday. We need not remind our readers that this annual friendly gathering owes its existence to Mr. George Rochester, a well-known ringer, a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and bell-warden of Sawbridgeworth. Long may this gentleman be spared to dispense his magnificent hospitality; a wish we desire to be extended to the members of his family, who on these festive occasions so warmly second the efforts of Mr. Rochester in conducting to the enjoyment of their guests.

The first visitors to arrive on the scene were some gentlemen from the ancient town of Saffron Walden, who were followed a few minutes after by Mr. Haley, sen., from London, looking as well as ever, though labouring under such a terrible affliction as partial blindness. Then came the squire of Bennington, with his band; and, by the same train, Messrs. Dymock and Alps, of Waltham Abbey and Broxbourne respectively. On the way, the visitors who came from the direction of London called at Harlow, and rung a touch of Stedman Triples upon the new ring of eight recently erected there by Messrs. Warner and Sons. This over, the compass was set for Sawbridgeworth, a good muster of ringers being soon assembled. Mr. Rochester, as is usual, entertained the party to dinner, thirty-three (including the members of the local company) partaking of the good things provided. In addition to those we have already named, Messrs. Pitstows, Penning, and Martin, of Saffron Walden, Mr. Taylor, of Cambridge, and Messrs. Tarling, Thurgood, and Colverd, of Waltham Abbey, were also present.

The rev. Vicar of Sawbridgeworth presided, supported on his right by L. Procter, Esq., on his left by H. Rivers, Esq., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The repast being over, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured, the toast, "Success to Change-Ringing," was proposed by the Chairman, who coupled with it the name of L. Procter, Esq., who made an appropriate reply. The "Health of Mr. Rivers" being next proposed, that gentlemen suitably responded. Then amidst the greatest enthusiasm,

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Healths of our worthy Host and Hostess," and as the former rose to reply, he was met with ringing cheers from the assembled company. Silence having been restored,

Mr. ROCHESTER said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, on behalf of Mrs. Rochester and myself, I beg to return our sincere thanks for the very kind manner in which this toast has been proposed and received, and I can assure you that if our humble hospitality has met with your approbation, it affords us at the same time the greatest pleasure, and on future occasions we shall be only too pleased to make you feel welcome.

At four o'clock Divine Service was held at the church, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. — Purcell, of Eastwick. During the day touches in no less than seven methods were rung.

DEPTFORD.—REVIVAL OF THE ANCIENT SOCIETY, THE TRINITY YOUTHS.

ON the evening of Whit-Monday, May 14th, it being the first Whit-Monday of the incumbency of St. Nicholas, Deptford, by the new vicar, the Rev. J. M. Vaughan, and also the first Whit-Monday during the charge of the churchwardens, the ringers, after ringing the peal at St. John's, rang at St. Nicholas' about 700 of Grandsire Triples. J. Waghorn, 1; W. Pead, 2; T. G. Deal (conductor), 3; T. Taylor, 4; W. Weatherstone, 5; A. G. Freeman, 6; H. Freeman, 7; J. Lawes and W. Bowles, 8. After which they were entertained at the school-room, by the kind and hospitable liberality of the Vicar, to a substantial dinner, the rev. gentleman presiding, supported by his lady and the churchwardens (Messrs. Locker and Wallen); Jonas Broad, Esq. (sidesman), and the verger (Mr. Fitch), being also present. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, the chairman said that as he could not remain throughout the proceedings, he would propose, as the toast of the evening, "The Health and Prosperity of the Trinity Youths of St. Nicholas, Deptford," which toast, it is almost needless to say, was well received. Mr. Fitch then proposed, and Mr. Pead seconded, a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the kindness he had shown to the ringers. This toast was well received, and heartily applauded. The rev. gentleman having retired, the chair was taken by Mr. Broad, who greatly contributed to the harmony of the evening. A touch of Grandsire Triples having been rung, conducted by Mr. Weatherstone, the brothers Freeman and Mr. Bowles played upon the handbells, at intervals, selections of popular music; and the company, having enjoyed a very agreeable afternoon and evening, separated at a late hour.

We again request that all communications intended for insertion in this paper, may be sent direct to our office, not to the publisher.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY last was the fixture for Lawton, but through the sudden death of the wife of one of the chief farmers whose house is in close proximity to the church, the meeting had at the last moment to be abandoned. This was much to be deplored, as the ringers of Lawton have been looking forward with much interest to their meeting, and the tower, containing a nice peal of six, would have given the Association an opportunity for some thoroughly good ringing. Those who, despite the meeting being done away with, went over, were very well pleased with all they saw. The little church, many centuries old, stands on a good position, and the effect of some water (though it is but a canal), adds considerably to the mellow tone of the bells. These have lately been rehung by Taylor and Co., and a sixth bell added by the same firm. They cannot be too highly praised for the way in which they have used the room at their disposal. Compact and firm in their iron frame, the bells run beautifully. The five old bells bear the date 1713, the former treble having been presented by the then ironmasters of Lawton, as a mark of regard to the church of the land. The ringers have been making praiseworthy efforts, with their Rector at their head, no less than £200 having been raised for the late belfry improvements. Whilst the bells are in such order, the belfry is no whit behind, and the ringers themselves are very anxious to leave the "old things" behind, and come out as first-class "half pull" practitioners. We feel sure that another year will see them well on their way to this desirable end.

On Whit-Monday, a party of members of this Association, with their Hon. Sec., went for an outing to Penkridge, where they were kindly and hospitably entertained by the Vicar, the Hon. and Rev. C. J. Lyttelton. Arriving by an early train, an attempt was made to ring the peal of eight in this grand old church, but great difficulty was found in so doing, for the length of rope from the ground floor is far too long, without some better provision for their guidance to the bell-chamber. A start was made about 1 p.m. for Lord Hatherton's estate, Tedesley Hall, and a stroll over these grounds with a stand up lunch brought the members back again in time for some more ringing before tea time, when both the Penkridge and the associates met at the vicarage. Evensong brought the day to a very pleasant end.

FARNHAM ROYAL, BUCKS.

ON Whit-Monday, May 14th, a friendly meeting of ringers took place to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the opening of St. Mary's tower, and its ring of six bells. Ringers came from Burnham, Reading, and Slough, and the local company were somewhat disappointed at not seeing some of their Willesden friends, who had promised to attend. Ringing commenced about 2 o'clock with a 720 of Bob Minor, followed by a 720 of Grandsire Minor, and another 720 of Bob Minor, and a variety of short touches in various methods. The local ringers with their visitors then adjourned to the schoolroom, where a bountiful tea had been provided as usual, agreeably to the good wishes of the rector (the Rev. S. F. Marshall, and Mrs. Marshall), who visited the ringers, and listened to some touches on the handbells, and kindly enquired if the strangers had enjoyed themselves. Tea over, the ringers returned to the tower, and rang another 720 of Grandsire Minor, when their Reading friends were obliged to think of returning home, well pleased with their afternoon's ringing, Mr. Egby and Mr. Goseltine having each rung their first 720 of Bob Minor, and the latter gentleman his first 720 of Grandsire Minor, with a bob bell. It was their intention to have tried some Treble Bob and Stedman, but time would not allow. Those who were not so far from home, rang the visitors to Taplow Station, with a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, followed by a 6-score of Stedman Doubles. The company then separated well pleased with their afternoon's ringing, they having rung during that time five complete 720's, and some touches of Minor and Triples, on handbells (double handed), were also rung during the day. The company wish to express their thanks to their worthy rector, the Rev. S. F. Marshall, for his kindness. Particulars of the ringing will be found amongst the performances.

St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, was reopened on Wednesday by the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland General Assembly, in presence of a large assemblage. The Cathedral has been restored chiefly through the liberality of the late Dr. William Chambers.

The movement initiated by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, with the cordial approval of Archbishop Benson, for raising, by public subscription, a fund with which to build a new organ for the Metropolitan Cathedral, the present instrument being considered unworthy of that important building, has progressed so satisfactorily that the Chapter have entered into negotiations with Mr. Henry Willis for the erection of a new instrument, which it is intended to place in a site to be chosen by him. The amount promised towards the fund up to yesterday was £1050.

SEDGLEY PARISH CHURCH, STAFFORDSHIRE.

After undergoing extensive alterations, the ancient parish church of Sedgley has been reopened. The side galleries have been removed, the west gallery has been extended, the nave and chancel have been paved with encaustic tiles, the body of the church and the gallery reseated, and the whole of the fabric has been cleansed and painted. The organ has been removed from the west gallery, and when restored by Messrs. Nicholson and Lord, of Walsall, will be erected in the chancel. The improvements have been carried out at a cost of £1,200. The sacarium has been decorated by Mr. Walter Egginton. The contractor was Mr. John Hilton, the architect Mr. A. P. Brevitt, and the heating apparatus has been erected by Messrs. Evans and Co., of Wolverhampton.

It will be in the recollection of many of our readers that we published some strictures upon the arrangements of the belfry of this church some time ago, sent to us by a correspondent. In the *Sedgley Quarterly Magazine*, the Vicar replied to these remarks, not altogether in an unkindly spirit, though an attempt at sarcasm, at our expense, was made. The vicar of Sedgley stated in the magazine of which he is the able Editor that a faculty had been obtained to "empower them to renovate and re-arrange the whole interior of the church, including the tower and its chambers," and "the faculty which we have obtained empowers us to remove the belfry floor, which is over the present vestry, and bring the ringers down to the ground floor, where they will be much more accessible; and thus it enables us to put in force regulations which we have long been anxiously considering, which hitherto it would have been almost hopeless to attempt to introduce, but which will now be within our capabilities. We are of those who know how very much more may be effected by one wholesale reform to-morrow than by two or three little tinkering to-day; and also how the few little tinkering of to-day may postpone for a month, or a year, or a lifetime, that more satisfactory and complete reform which would otherwise have come to-morrow. We had therefore patiently awaited our time, and were now quietly pursuing our work, when the Sunday stroller, and 'THE BELL NEWS,' . . . thus lifted up their voices."

By the "Sunday Stroller" is meant our correspondent, who visited the belfry on the Sunday in question, and informed us of its condition. We have taken the above brief account of the reopening from a paper which is usually very precise, but there is no mention of any alteration in the belfry. We hope that the good intentions in this respect expressed in the *Sedgley Quarterly Magazine* have not been altogether lost sight of. Making the ringing-chamber fit to be looked into may not be perhaps so important as the alterations and improvements which have been effected at a cost of £1,200, but we think when faculties are obtained to "renovate and rearrange the whole interior of the church, including the tower and its chambers," it is reasonable to expect in a report of such alterations, a brief allusion to what amelioration has been made to the tower and its chambers, and what steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of those unseemly irregularities which are frequently enacted in a totally-neglected belfry. And amidst all these alterations and improvements—to which we shall be among the last to demur—is it impertinent to ask what has been done in connection with repairs to the bell-fittings? Has a competent man been called in to report upon their condition? We trust that such questions can be affirmatively answered, and also that the general condition of the ringing-chamber has been improved, and we should be pleased to see in the next number of the *Sedgley Quarterly Magazine*, an intimation to the effect that every thing appertaining to the steeple was as it should be.

RETTENDON, ESSEX.

THE bells of the parish will be re-opened on Wednesday next, May 30th, by a band of the Essex Association from Widford. There will be a service at 3.30. Ringing will commence at 2.30. The old frame has been replaced by a new oak frame, and the ring increased to six, by the addition of two trebles, by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the Whitechapel foundry, the old tenor, which was about a note-and-three-quarters lower than the old fourth (which is now the tenor), having been removed, and the old third, which was cracked, having been recast. The notes and weights of the six bells are as follows:—

		cwt.	qr.	lbs.	note.
Treble	(new)	3.	2.	14.	F sharp.
2nd.	(new)	3.	3.	26.	E.
3rd.		4.	1.	0.	D.
4th.		5.	0.	0.	C sharp.
5th.	(recast)	6.	0.	0.	B.
Tenor		8.	1.	7.	A.

The bells have been hung by Mr. H. Bowell, of Ipswich. The ropes are by Nicoll, of Bermondsey. The church is nine miles from Chelmsford Station, G.E.R., and seven-and-a-half from Pitsea Station of the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway. Any members of the Essex Association will be welcomed.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THIS Association held its Quarterly Meeting at North Shields on Whit-Monday, and was one of the most successful meetings it has ever experienced, the ring of ten, the only one in the two dioceses, being open to the members, as well as the belfries of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Jarrow, and St. Hilda's, South Shields. On the Saturday previous, a Newcastle band, which included, however, the president (W. Reed, Esq.), and the Hon. Sec. (G. J. Clarkson, Esq., of Stockton), rang a 5040 of Grandsire Triples on the bells of All Saints, Newcastle, being the first 5040 rang in that city for more than twenty-five years, and this seemed to have infused an enthusiastic feeling into the various members who handled the sallies, and good ringing was the order of the day. In the particular of striking there was a marked improvement on the last two or three meetings, and this fact goes to prove the good the Association is doing. Members attended from Stockton, Darlington, Newcastle, South Shields, Jarrow, Staindrop, Winlaton, etc., etc., and eighty-three sat down to a capital dinner at the Albion Hotel. The chair was taken by the Rev. —. Humble, supported by Jos. Baker, Esq. (ex-Mayor, and Churchwarden of the parish church), and the Rev. —. Russell, the vice-chairs being occupied by the president (W. Reed, Esq.), and one of the vice-presidents (G. Overton, Esq. of Darlington). After the toasts of "The Queen and Royal Family," and "The Bishops and Clergy of the two Dioceses" had been drunk, and the latter replied to, the chairman proposed the "The Health of the President," which was drunk with great cordiality, and amidst great applause. In returning thanks for "The Visitors,"

Mr. Jos. BAKER stated that he intended to become a member of the Association; and took the opportunity to pay a very high tribute to the North Shields ringers, referring to a fact which was not generally known, viz., that when the church was recently in debt, they contributed a quarter's salary towards the liquidation of the same. He proposed their health, and coupled with it the name of Mr. Stephen Knott, a well-known North Shields ringer.

Mr. KNOTT, in returning thanks, proposed "The Health of Mr. S. Power," the conductor of the 5000 rung on the previous Saturday, and trusted that he might long be spared to conduct many more peals.

The Hon. Sec. stated that he had issued between sixty and seventy of the new certificates of membership, thus proving the rapid strides which were being made in the science by the Association. After several new members were proposed, including the names of Mr. Jos. Baker and the Rev. Canon Lloyd, Vicar of Newcastle Cathedral, whose name was received with loud applause, a most enthusiastic meeting separated with three cheers for the president.

The ringing during the day will be found recorded in its proper place in another column, and in addition to that Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Royal, and Grandsire Caters were indulged in on North Shields bells.

THE CAREFUL RINGER.

[The following lines are sent by a well-known correspondent. It is to be presumed that the funny vein in which they are written, is the cause of them possessing very little rhyme, if they contain heaps of reason; so upon that account, they should not be read too critically. Out of respect to our correspondent, who is certainly "a very good fellow," we refrain from giving his name to this, his first poetical effusion. Perhaps, like good wine, he will improve with age.]

There was a ringer who boasted once;
To any one he met;
That if he learnt a method well,
He never could forget:
The rules whereby to keep his place,
And surely ring his bell;
But when to dodge in 4-5 down,
He really could not tell.
He joined a band of ringers,
And attended every week,
And thus excused himself when wrong,
"I can't hear the treble speak."
And when by the course method,
He was further told to ring,
He could never count the places
Where he passed the treble in.
He always knew when a peal was rung,
And the time and all correct,
He was acquainted with nearly ev'ry rule
That was ever invented yet.
He was A 1 at "compass ringing,"
And would always have you know,
That the "hand-stroke" blows should
be nice and quick,
And the "back-stroke" wide and slow
While as for "Stedman Triples,"
He counted every six,
But somehow when he should go "slow,"
He mostly went in "quick."
In fact he was "Jack of all methods,"
But surely was master of none,

He knew a bit of every peal,
But had never rang through one.
He was like one of that worthy band,
(I mustn't mention his name.)
As a ringer he was "never in fault,"
"The bells were all to blame."
He was full of the "Art of ringing,"
And was always "on the job,"
He took a delight in every kind,
"Turkey Driving," and "Churchyard
Bob."
He once did a bit of calling,
And composing in a form,
His changes nearly all repeat,
And the peal rung e'er he was born.

MORAL.

Now listen to me ringers all,
Before my course is done,
And take heed well to what I say,
Known most by every one.
This is the golden maxim,
For ringers and every one,
"Keep eyes and ears about you,
And always hold your tongue."

I hope that none are offended,
Young and old and one and all,
We are "home," my tale is ended,
So we'll "stand" after saying "that's
all."

"THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD" will be forwarded post free, on the following terms.—

One copy, 12 months 6s. 6d.

" 6 " 3s. 3d.

" 3 " 1s. 8d.

All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher, W. E. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London.

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; the insertion of Performances coming later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number.

The Editor would be glad to receive the names of gentlemen who would be willing to act for their respective districts, in the capacity of reporter or correspondent. We shall feel obliged by Association and other Secretaries sending intelligence of events occurring within their jurisdiction.

J. W. GREENWOOD.—Thanks for your kind letter. We were aware of the errors, which are merely misprints, but if you cannot unravel the matter, let us know.

E. BENNETT.—We shall feel a pleasure in settling the question for you. About Monday or Tuesday you shall hear.

P. HAMBLETT.—Your case is being enquired into.

TO COMPOSERS SENDING PEALS FOR PROOF.—It is gratifying to see that the facilities we offer for proving peals is taken advantage of to a great extent. We have nearly forty peals now on hand from different composers. Up till now, this work has been got through by ourselves and our distinguished colleague, Mr. Henry Johnson, but shall be compelled to impress a third worker into the service. We mention this as a kind of palliative for the seeming delay in replying to some of our friends. It entails some extra work, and when in the future we prove a peal, and publish it as true, we shall require a corresponding advantage. Therefore, be it known, to all whom it may concern, that for every peal or touch proved by us, it is our wish that the composers of the same will secure a fresh subscriber to this paper.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1883.

THE honour of ringing the greatest length of Treble Bob Major belongs to the Ashton-under-Lyne company, who on Friday week succeeded in their attempt at the peal of 16,608 in that method, at the parish church of Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire. Another of the "palms of victory"—to use a poetical expression of a well-known ringer—becomes therefore, transferred from London to the provinces. Previous to the 9000 of Stedman Cinques being rung at Birmingham, the Metropolitan societies enjoyed the prestige of ringing the longest peal in that method, as also the greatest lengths in Treble Bob Major and Treble Bob Royal. The latter peal, which was one of 12,000 changes, rung at S. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by the Society of Cumberlands, still retains its position at the head of the Treble-ten list, though its place of honour there has been more than once threatened. The College Youths' long peal of Stedman Cinques was superseded at the Midland capital in 1881, and now, after an interval of fifteen years, their peal of 15,840 of Treble Bob, rang at S. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on the 27th of April, 1868, has in point of time and number of changes, been beaten by the Ashton company on Friday week.

In complimenting Mr. S. Wood and his associates in achieving such an extraordinary performance, we hope that if there exists any one who is dissatisfied with it, he will publish his criticisms at once, and not utter a word here and there, in any corner he may chance to find himself. If the accurate performance of long peals are questioned, those who doubt their truth should not hesitate to state

publicly the grounds for the existence of such incredulity, and not endeavour by inuendo to throw discredit upon them. We were compelled to hear animadversions upon a portion of the striking of the Birmingham peal, and also the long peal of Double Norwich rung at Beeston, Notts. But we place no value on such statements, as we think that whoever feels a doubt upon such matters should express themselves to that effect publicly, and have every thing cleared up. And this should be done as soon after the performance as possible, and when settled, the disappointed and doubting persons should ever after hold their peace.

That more than one company were intent upon ringing this peal appears to show that the race of ringers possessing the attributes of a chivalrous rivalry are not yet extinct. As there is no likelihood of the same peal being again attempted by the members of the Norwich Association who were unsuccessful the other day at Debenham, as also from the fact that there is no greater length yet composed in this method, the chances of this Mottram peal being superseded by one of greater length is very remote indeed. That it is possible to obtain a greater length in this method we certainly believe; and the task is open to any of those clever composers who within the past few years have made their mark in this branch of the science. But at any rate, the names of those ringers who took part in this wonderful Treble Bob performance must be admitted upon the "rolls of fame," as worthy successors of such men as GRANT, POVEY, GROSS, PURSER, MARLTON, MUGGERIDGE, and other worthies of the past.

THE JOHN HOLT PEAL TABLET.

In another column will be found a letter from a correspondent relative to this very interesting record. Our readers, none of them, we should hope, are ignorant of the fact that the talent of HOLT gave an impetus to the ringing science. As is well known, his peal was first rung at the church of S. Margaret, Westminster. The tablet which records this is in such a dilapidated condition that its early restoration is imperative. It is not intended to have a new tablet, with the taste and art of a modern painter, for an inspection of the old one has led to the discovery that it exhibits—hidden till now by the dust of years—in no ordinary degree, great talent on the part of the artiste who was intrusted by HOLT and his friends with its execution. The sum required to make this tablet "a thing of beauty" if not "a joy for evermore," is very trifling. Some time ago a penny subscription was mooted but we are afraid that has been held to be impracticable. If the various societies would instruct their secretaries to forward small sums, even so low as sixpence in amount, the object in view could be attained. And if our numerous correspondents who send us reports of performances and other matter for insertion in "THE BELL NEWS" of next week, will only enclose a stamp, we will acknowledge it in our next issue, and forward all such contributions to the Treasurer, whose address will be found in the letter we

have referred to. Who will help, or rather, who will abstain from helping to redeem such a tablet from decay? To have to ask the Exercise more than once to preserve such a record from total oblivion is *infra dig.*, certainly. We hope that all those who have at any time felt pleasure and gained credit in ringing the compositions of JOHN HOLT will be of opinion that this attempt to keep his name fresh in the memory of posterity, is an effort in which it is something like their duty to assist.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.
FULHAM, MIDDLESEX.

On Tuesday, May 15, 1883, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 22 cwt.

THOMAS HATTERSLEY Treble.	GEORGE McLAUGHLIN .. 5.
JOHN W. ROWBOTHAM .. 2.	CHALLIS F. WINNY .. 6.
RICHARD FRENCH 3.	EDWIN HORREX 7.
JOHN M. HAYES 4.	WALTER PRIME Tenor.

Conducted by THOS. HATTERSLEY.

Mr. Hattersley hails from Sheffield. It was anticipated that the company would start for Grandsire Caters, but unfortunately Messrs. Booth and Steer, also visitors from Sheffield, arrived after the above peal had commenced. After the peal, all adjourned to the College Youths' Meeting Room, where the peal-books were inspected by the visitors, who were highly pleased with the same.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY.—LAMBETH.

On Monday, May 21, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 18 cwt.

J. SCOWEN* Treble.	H. HOPKINS 5.
H. A. ANDREWS† 2.	J. M. ROUTH, Esq. .. 6.
W. COPPAGE 3.	W. BARON 7.
W. JONES 4.	J. BARRY Tenor.

Conducted by W. BARON.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell.

The Provinces.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.
CRAYFORD, KENT.

On Sunday, May 13, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT ST. PAULINUS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 12½ cwt. in F.

EDWARD SAXBY Treble.	FREDERICK FRENCH .. 5.
FREDERICK M. JACOBS .. 2.	ALFRED COLE 6.
GEORGE CONYARD 3.	JAMES SAXBY 7.
HENRY J. SHADE 4.	THOMAS WEBB Tenor.

Conducted by FREDERICK M. JACOBS.

Edward Saxby was elected a member of the above Society previous to starting for the peal. Mr. Henry J. Shade hails from Greenwich, and the rest from Crayford. The bells were struck off at ten minutes to five in the morning, and were brought round in good style at twenty minutes to eight.

CASTLE HALL, STALYBRIDGE, LANCASHIRE.

On Monday, May 14, 1883 (no time given),

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES.

JAMES SHAW Treble.	THOMAS WILDE 5.
RALPH PRITCHARD 2.	SAMUEL BRADLEY 6.
THOMAS BRADLEY 3.	JAMES S. WILDE 7.
ROBERT WOOLLEY 4.	SAMUEL BENNET Tenor.

Composed by JAMES S. WILDE and conducted by THOMAS WILDE.

Mr. Bennet, formerly of Hyde, hails from Edinburgh; the rest of the company from Hyde.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

On Tuesday, May 22, 1883, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION. Tenor 26 cwt.

GEORGE APPLEBY Treble.	ARTHUR WAKLEY 5.
EDWARD ISAAC STONE .. 2.	FREDERICK WM. APPLEBY 6.
JOHN JAGGAR 3.	WILLIAM WAKLEY 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	THOMAS HOLMES Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM WAKLEY.

Rung on the occasion of the Freemasons holding Provincial Grand Lodge in St. Paul's Institute, and attending Divine Service in St. Paul's church.

EYE, SUFFOLK.

On Thursday, May 17, 1883, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt.

FREDERICK DAY, JUN. .. Treble.	EDWIN GIBBS, JUN. .. 5.
GEORGE DAY, SEN. 2.	GEORGE FORD 6.
ROBERT FORD 3.	JOHN BUMPSTEAD 7.
ROBERT E. GIBBS, SEN. .. 4.	GEORGE MURTON Tenor.

Composed by J. WILDE, and conducted by GEORGE MURTON.

E. Gibbs, junr. (a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths), hails from London, being on a visit to Eye, his native place, where he received his first lesson on change ringing, under the able tuition of F. Day.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—BRAINTREE.

On Saturday, May 19, 1883, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

5040 CHANGES; IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS,
UPON SIX BELLS.

Being a 720 of each of the following:—

OXFORD DELIGHT; KENT TREBLE BOB; WOODBINE;
OXFORD TREBLE BOB; NEW LONDON
PLEASURE; COLLEGE EXERCISE; AND BOB MINOR.

Tenor 14 cwt.

H. E. HAMMOND Treble.	*S. HAMMOND 4.
F. CALTHORPE 2.	*F. RUDKIN 5.
W. H. DYSON* 3.	*A. HUCKSON Tenor.

Conducted by F. RUDKIN.

*College Youths.

This is the first 5040 ever rung at Braintree, and the first, since the formation of the Essex Association, upon six bells, and also the first by any of the company. The striking was excellent throughout.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.—THE
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.

On Friday, May 18, 1883, in Nine Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 16,608 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

THOMAS MOSS Treble.	BENJAMIN BROADBENT .. 5.
JAMES ADAMS 2.	JOSEPH MELLOR 6.
JAMES WOOD, JUN. 3.	GEORGE LONGDEN 7.
SAMUEL WOOD 4.	JOHN THORP Tenor.

Composed by the late THOMAS DAY, of Birmingham, and conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

This is the longest peal ever rung in any method, by one set of men.

The rebuilding of the ancient church of the Knight Templars, near Bodmin, which has been in ruins for over a century, is now nearly completed. The church consists of tower with battlements, nave, chancel, and one transept. The east, west, and north windows have just been filled with stained glass. The east window has two lights, one representing the Ascension of Our Lord. The other the Nativity. Above these lights there is elaborate tracery filled with rich stained glass representing the shield of the Knight Templars, and various ecclesiastical designs.

ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—ROCHDALE.

On Tuesday, May 15, 1883, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART (REVERSE). Tenor 18½ cwt. in F.

WILLIAM HENRY SMITH .. Treble.	*WILLIAM PHILLIPS 5.
JAMES ADSHEAD 2.	†JOSEPH STREET 6.
JOHN HAGGARD* 3.	*JAMES WAUGH 7.
JOHN HARRISON† 4.	EDWARD STEPHENSON .. Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES ADSHEAD.

*First peal. †Members of the Lancashire Association.

The above band consisted of three from St. Chad's, Rochdale; two from St. Luke's, Heywood; and three from St. Alban's.

Date Touches.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—Early on Sunday morning, May 13th, it being Whit-Sunday, at St. Mary's, a date touch, 1883 changes, being 720 of Bob Minor; 720 of Grandsire Minor; and 443 of Grandsire Minor; in 1 hr. 8 mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Basden, 2; J. Parker (composer and conductor), 3; W. Fussell, 4; A. Fussell, 5; C. Clarke, 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

SOUTHPORT (Lancashire).—On Friday evening, May 18th, six of the above ringers and Mr. Carter, of Birmingham, met at the tower of Southport for a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, one being short started for a date touch of Grandsire Triples on seven bells, and succeeded in ringing it in 1 hr. 5 mins., containing the Queens, Tittums, and Whittingtons, and 24 6-7's. D. E. Rimmer, 1; J. Carter (composer and conductor), 2; A. Fielding, 3; C. F. Heywood, 4; R. Hill, 5; H. Spencer, 6; G. R. Heywood, 7. Tenor 10 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

JARROW.—On Monday, May 14th, 740 Oxford Bob. S. Whitfield (Stockton), 1; W. Patton (Darlington), 2; C. L. Routledge, 3; W. Stephenson (Stockton), 4; F. Stephenson (Stockton), 5; G. J. Clarkson (Stockton, conductor), 6. Tenor 8½ cwt. Time 27½ mins.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Thursday, May 17th, for evening service at St. John's church, 720 Violet Treble Bob Minor. F. Lees, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; W. Eggleston, (first 720 in the method), 3; W. G. Routledge (conductor), 4; W. Story, 5; R. S. Story, 6.

NORTH SHIELDS.—On Monday, May 14th, 640 Kent Treble Bob Major. John Whitfield (Darlington), 1; W. G. Routledge (Newcastle), 2; J. Rossiter (North Shields), 3; G. Overton (Darlington), 4; R. W. Wignall (North Shields), 5; J. Simm (Newcastle), 6; R. Smith (North Shields), 7; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 8. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor on the back six. S. Nott, 1; J. Rossiter, 2; D. Shipp (Staindrop; first 720 in the method), 3; R. Smith, 4; R. W. Wignall, 5; W. Reed (conductor), 6. Also 504 Grandsire Triples. Challoner (West Hartlepool), 1; C. L. Routledge (Newcastle), 2; J. Rossiter, 3; F. Ord (Newcastle), 4; Joel Hern (North Shields), 5; S. Power (conductor), 6; W. Story (Newcastle), 7; J. W. Stobart (Newcastle), 8. Tenor 19 cwt.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—On Monday, May 14th, at St. Hilda's, 720 College Single. J. Bolton (Darlington), 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; G. J. Clarkson 3; R. S. Story (Newcastle), 4; S. Stephenson (conductor), 5; J. Moffitt (South Shields), 6. Also 720 Grandsire Minor. Challoner, 1; J. Moffitt, 2; S. Power, 3; D. Shipp, 4; J. Hopper (South Shields), 5; E. Wallis (Newcastle, conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt. Stedman Triples Kent Treble Bob Royal, and Grandsire Caters were also indulged in on the North Shields bells.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MALDON (Essex).—On Monday evening, May 21st, at All Saints', a 720 of Bob Minor, and a 720 of Double Court Bob Minor, in 52 mins. S. Cable, 1; F. Fitch, 2; T. Mansfield, 3; G. Mansfield, 4; W. Chalk (conductor), 5; W. Mansfield, 6. Also 120 of Grandsire Doubles, conducted by Mr. Cable. The above were rung to commemorate the seventieth birthday of Mr. Stephen Cable, who has rung at the above church over 40 years. Tenor about 13 cwt.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LOUGHBOROUGH (Leicestershire).—On Tuesday, May 15th, eight members of the above Association, rang at All Saints' church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 49 mins. *W. Billingham, 1; *H. Bradley, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, jun., 4; *S. Smith, 5; J. W. Taylor, sen., 6; J. Howe (conductor), 7; *E. Wightman, 8. Tenor 24 cwt in D. *First quarter-peal.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Saturday evening, May 12th, at St. Mary's, a 720 of Bob Minor, with eight bobs and fourteen singles, in 26 mins. F. Fells, 1; A. Fussell, 2; J. Parker (composer), 3; W. Fussell, 4; J. Basden (conductor), 5; C. Clarke, 6. And for Divine Service in the morning, on the following Sunday, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26½ mins. J. Parker (conductor 1; F. Fells, 2; G. Basden, 3; A. Batten, 4; J. Basden, 5; C. Clarke, 6. And on Monday, May 14th, a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, 25 mins. W. Fussell (conductor), 1; A. Fussell, 2; J. Parker, 3; A. Batten, 4; J. Basden, 5; H. Egby, 6. Also a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. A. Fussell, 1; F. Fells, 2; G. Basden, 3; J. Basden, 4; W. Fussell, 5; H. Egby (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Bob Minor (in two parts, with thirty-four bobs and six singles), in 25½ mins. W. Goseltine, 1; F. Fells, 2; J. Parker (composer and conductor), 3; W. Fussell, 4; J. Basden, 5; H. Egby, 6. Also a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with thirty-four bobs and two singles, in 26 mins. J. Basden, 1; A. Fussell, 2; J. Parker, 3; W. Goseltine, 4; W. Fussell, 5; H. Egby (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 25 mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Basden, 2; A. Fussell, 3; A. Batten, 4; J. Parker (conductor), 5; W. Fussell, 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

WOOBURN (Bucks).—On Whit Monday, May 14th, by the kind permission of the vicar, eight members of the Maidenhead branch of the above Guild, with Mr. R. Flaxman, of Farnham Royal, also a member of the Guild, rang at the parish church, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 31 mins. The band started for a whole peal, but unfortunately owing to the unmanageable condition of the tenor, which required two men to ring, the conductor was compelled to bring them home at half-way. J. Eldridge, 1; H. Rogers, 2; Edward Rogers, 3; R. Flaxman, 4; R. Smith, 5; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 6; J. Wilkins, 7; Edwin Rogers and R. House, 8.

THE ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, TIVERTON, DEVON.

On Sunday, May 20th, before Divine Service in the evening, at St. Peter's church, eight members of the above society rang a touch of 1008 Grandsire Triples (first and second parts of Holt's 10-part peal), in 40 mins. R. Grater, junr., 1; T. Woodward, 2; J. Grater, junr., 3; E. Munday (conductor), 4; Lewis Mackenzie, 5; J. Grater, 6; J. Clements, 7; J. Fewings and H. Hippiusley, 8. Tenor 29 cwt. This is the longest touch that has ever been rung by this society. [We give this touch as it is sent to us, but if the bells were allowed to run home after the second part-end had come up—and it is not a "touch" unless the bells are brought round—more than a 1008 changes were rung. But we would point out that in this case, the touch would not be true, because in running home after the second part-end, change which appeared at the first part-end are again brought up. Reeves's variation of Holt's 10-part peal is the best to utilise for touches in this manner.—ED.]

THE WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WORCESTER.—On Whit-Monday, May 14th, eight members of this Association rang at St. Helen's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples containing the twenty-four 6-7's, composed by the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS," who is a native of this city, and who rang and called his first peal at this church. W. Hunt, 1; S. Price, 2; J. Hinton, 3; W. Blandford, 4; W. Reynolds, 5; H. Wilks (conductor), 6; F. Owen, 7; J. Holden, 8.

ARBORFIELD (Berks).—On Saturday, May 19th, a 720, consisting of six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins, by the kind permission of the Rector the Rev. Walsh, at the parish church. W. R. Pocock (first 720), 1; Ernest Bishop, 2; Wm. H. Fussell, 3; J. E. Wiltshire, 4; W. J. Williams (conductor), 5; J. T. Waldron, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in G. Five of the above are members of St. Lawrence's society.

BENHILTON (Surrey).—On Trinity Sunday, at All Saints' church, six members of the local company, rang for early celebration of the Holy Communion, at 8 a.m., a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with twenty-one bobs and twelve singles, in 29 mins. Lewin Charles Ferridge, 1; John Francis, 2; James Trendell, 3; George Petre, 4; Charles Trendell, 5; John Trendell (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in this method ever rung on the bells, and also the first for all the ringers.

HANDSWORTH (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, May 13th, for Divine Service at St. Mary's, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. F. Workman, 1; H. Bastable (conductor), 2; F. Banks, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; J. Buffery, 5; W. Verry, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in F. [This report was accidentally overlooked last week.]

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Sunday, May 20th, for evening service at St. Martin's church, 720 Bob Minor in 22½ mins; Peter Kendall, Esq., 1; James Leach, 2; Thomas Titchener, 3; Arthur Jacob, 4; James Barret (conductor), 5; Wingfield Meadows, Esq., 6.

LEESFIELD (Lancashire).—On Whit-Friday, May 18th, the first half of Reeves's ten-part peal, 2520 changes, in 1 hr. 28 mins. Jas. W. Holme, 1; Fred Crosland, 2; Edwin Shaw, 3; Thomas Egerton, 4; Jas. Bailey, 5; Samuel Stott (conductor), 6; John Hilton, 7; Thos. B. Shaw, 8. Tenor 14 cwt. It was intended for a peal, but in consequence of the Sunday School Processions, which commenced at nine o'clock, we were requested to ring the first half only, this Whit-Friday being the seventeenth anniversary of the bells.

READING (Berks).—On Thursday, May 10th, at St. Giles's, a 720 consisting of six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins. H. Smart, 1; J. E. Wiltshire, 2; R. Allen, 3; W. Goseltine, 4; W. J. Williams (conductor), 5; R. Hopgood, 6. Also on Sunday morning, May 20th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25½ mins. Ernest Bishop (first 720), 1; Richard Allen, 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; William Goseltine, 4; Thomas Newman, 5; H. Egby (conductor), 6.

ROMFORD.—(*Chiming*).—On Sunday afternoon, May 20th, two members of the Essex Association chimed for Divine Service, a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, upon the back six of St. Edward's ring, and for evening service a 720 of Extreme Minor. A. J. Perkins, 1-2-3-4; B. Keeble (composer and conductor), 5-6. This 720, which is obtained by nine extremes and three singles, has the second undisturbed throughout, the third at home at each of the singles, and contains the smallest number of calls possible in a 720 of any plain method.

SOUTHGATE (Middlesex).—On Monday, May 21st, a party of the London Society of Royal Cumberlands visited this picturesque village, with the intention of ringing a peal on the far-famed bells of Christ Church, but owing unfortunately to a mis-arrangement, one of the band did not put in an appearance. Determined not to go back to London without having a pull, the following members rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 32½ mins. P. Kendall, Esq., 1; J. Leach, 2; A. Jacob, 3; W. Meadows, Esq., 4; T. Titchener, 5; G. Newson (conductor), 6. After a short interval, the bells were again put in motion, and a 720 of Real Double Court Bob Minor was rung in 32 mins. Peter Kendall, Esq., 1; James Leach (first 720 in the method), 2; Wingfield Meadows, Esq., 3; Arthur Jacob, 4; Thos. Titchener, 5; G. Newson (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in this method on the bells. Mr. Dawes, the steeple-keeper, here returning, and it being now a late hour, a finishing 700 of Plain Bob, was rung, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 31 mins., after which the bells were fallen in peal. A. Dawes, 1; J. Leach, 2; A. Jacob, 3; T. Titchener, 4; W. Meadows, Esq., 5; G. Newson (conductor), 6. Tenor 25 cwt.

WALTON (Lancashire).—On Tuesday evening, May 15th, at the parish church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with thirty-four bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. T. Ashcroft (Liverpool), 1; T. Elson (Childwall), 2; R. H. Stanley (Liverpool), 3; J. Bradshaw (Bootle), 4; C. E. Wilson (conductor; Walton), 5; E. Yates (Bootle), 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

WOBURN (Bedfordshire).—On Saturday, May 19th, a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles on the back six. *W. E. Turney, 1; *A. C. Wiseman, 2; Chas. Herbert, 3; I. Hills (Bedford), 4; *F. T. Tanqueray, Esq. (conductor), 5; *George Archer, 6. *First 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. Tenor 13 cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL RINGERS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association was held at Eccleston, on Saturday, the 19th instant, when upwards of sixty members attended. Several 720's of Plain Bob were rung during the afternoon.

At 5 o'clock, tea was served out at the Brown Cow Hotel, after which the usual meeting was held, when the report of the past year was read and adopted, showing the society to be in a flourishing condition. The retiring officers were re-elected.

After the meeting, the members enjoyed themselves by singing, and touches on the handbells. The Blackrod and Chorley handbell ringers discoursed some excellent music on the handbells; altogether a very enjoyable afternoon being spent.

JOHN G. HIGSON.

* * Just as we are about going to press, we have received a letter, signed "A Practical Ringer," without the actual name of the writer. We must adhere to our established rule.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers held their general annual meeting at Exeter on Whit-Monday. There was a large gathering of members of the Guild, and the meeting was most successful. The bands who attended the meeting were the Exeter band, the Tiverton band, the Huntsham band, the Ilfracombe band, and the Upton Pyne band. There were also representatives of several other bands in different parts of the county. The following church towers were kindly lent to the Guild for the day:—St. Sidwell's and Alphington, each containing eight bells, and St. David's and St. Petrock's, each containing six bells. Several touches were very well rung by the different bands, and the day passed off most agreeably. At three o'clock a general business meeting was held at 160, St. Sidwell's, the President of the Guild, Colonel Chas. A. W. Troyte, in the chair. The Treasurer's accounts were read and passed, and a loan of £20, formerly made by Colonel Troyte to the Guild, were ordered to be repaid out of the balance in the hands of the Treasurer. The yearly report was read and adopted. The Chairman impressed upon the meeting the importance of making determined efforts, both collectively and individually to promote belfry reform, and to encourage change-ringing in the county. The Hon. Secretary (the Rev. J. S. Northcote), was instructed to arrange a plan for sending out skilled teachers to any tower at which the ringers desired to study the art of change-ringing. A vote of thanks to Mr. W. B. Fulford, the late treasurer, was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

By the death of Mr. James Crabtree, of Shipley, which occurred very suddenly on the 26th of April, the above society has lost one of its Vice-presidents, and one of the most energetic of its committeemen. Mr. Crabtree had been connected with the Shipley society for many years, and was well-known amongst ringers in Yorkshire. The interment took place at Windhill, on Saturday, April 28th, when a large number of ringers, and of the local body of Odd Fellows, were present. The president and secretary, Messrs. Jasper W. Snowdon and Wm. Whitaker of Leeds, attended as representatives of the above Association.

BELL INSCRIPTIONS.

On the tenor of St. Benet's, Cambridge:—

"John Draper made me in 1618 as plainly doth appear
This bell was a broake and cast again with tyme churchwardens were
Edward Dixon for the one whoe stode close to his tacklin,
And he that was his partner then was Alexander Tacklyn."

At St. Mary Devizes, on the treble:—

"I am the first, altho' but small,
I will be heard above you all."

On a bell at Alderton:—

"I'm given here to make a peal
And sound the praise of Mary Neale."

At Normanton-on-Soar.

"I sweetly tolling men do call
To taste on meate that feeds the soul."

A fire-bell cast in 1652, in the church of Sherbourne, has:—

"Lord! quench this furious flame:
Arise, run, help, put out the same."

On the bells of New College, Oxford (very sentimentously and dubiously grammatical):—

1. "Manners maketh Man. A.R. 1712." 2. "Manners maketh Man. W.W. 1712." 3. 5. 8. 10. "Michael Darbie made me. W.W. 1665." 4. "Manners maketh Man. A.R. 1703." 6. "Henry Knight of Reading made me. 1672." 7. "Prosperity to New College. A.R. 1712." 9. "Manners maketh Man. A.R. 1723."

On the great bell at Glasgow Cathedral. (This is a very talkative bell):—

"In the yeare of grace 1583 (300 years exactly), Marcus Knox, a merchant in Glasgow, zealous for the interest of the Reformed religion, caused me to be fabricated in Holland for the use of his fellow-citizens of Glasgow, placed me with solemnity in the tower of their Cathedral. My function was announced by the impress on my bosom: 'Me audito venias doctrinam sanctam ut discas,' and I was taught to proclaim the hours of unheeded time. 195 years had sounded these awful warnings, when I was broken by the hands of inconsiderate and unskilful men. In the year 1790, I was cast into the furnace, reformed at London, and returned to my sacred vocation. Reader! thou also shalt know a resurrection; may it be to eternal life. Thomas Mears, fecit, London, 1790."

EXTRAORDINARY LONG PEAL AT MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

In pursuance of the intentions of eight members of the Ashton-under-Lyne society to attempt the longest peal of Treble Bob Major yet composed, such attempt was made on Friday in Whitsun-week, at the parish church of the above village, and we are glad to be able to add, that the peal was, at the first attempt, successfully accomplished. The formal record of this grand performance will be found in its proper place in another column, but the character of such an important achievement deserves at our hands something beyond a mere announcement of its execution. When it was first decided to attempt this peal, the ringers, all of whom are natives of Ashton-under-Lyne, and members of the ringing company of that town, visited Mottram, and rang the first part of the peal there, and by bringing the bells home from the first part-end, they on that occasion obtained a long 5000 peal, true, which duly appeared among our records of performances. After this a determination was come to that this peal—16,668 changes, composed by the late T. Day, of Birmingham, should be attempted at the same place, according to notice given.

On Thursday evening, May 17th, the company proceeded to Mottram, taking with them the ropes belonging to S. Peter's church, Ashton, as grave doubts were entertained whether those at Mottram would stand the length. Eleven o'clock the same evening saw them in the tower, making everything safe and ready for morning. To bed at twelve; up at four o'clock in the morning, into the country for a walk. Returning at half-past five to the village, they sat down to an excellent and substantial breakfast provided by Mr. William Middleton. They then repaired to the tower, and all preliminaries being arranged, everything in apple-pie order, "as the sayin' is," the bells were set swinging at twenty-five minutes past six; and rounds being rung for five minutes, the order to "Go" was given. At this time not more than half-a-dozen ringers were present, two of them having journeyed a distance of seven miles 'cross country to be present at the commencement of the peal. As the day wore on, the number of visitors began to swell considerably, ringers pouring in from all parts of the country. Amongst those present we noticed Mr. Peter Johnson, of Wigan; the brothers Wilde, of Hyde, Cheshire; Mr. Richard Ainsworth, of Denton; and ringers from the following places: Hadfield, Hayfield, Saddleworth, Stockport, Manchester, Glossop, Edinburgh, and other places. Mr. James Wood, sen., of Ashton-under-Lyne, was also present, and in company with that veteran ringer, Mr. James Hamilton, of Mottram, listened to the peal from its commencement to its completion. And with regard to the striking, we are pleased to hear that it was the universal opinion of those who were competent to judge in such a matter, that better ringing it would have been impossible to hear.

When the time approached at which rounds were momentarily expected to be heard, the visitors flocked in large numbers to the belfry-door; and at the finish, when the ringers presented themselves to the assemblage in the order in which they stood in the peal, they were warmly congratulated on their prowess. The company stood as follows: Thomas Moss, *Treble*; James Adams, 2; James Wood, jun., 3; Samuel Wood, 4; Benjamin Broadbent, 5; Joseph Mellor, 6; George Longden, 7; John Thorp, *Tenor*. Composed by the late Mr. Thomas Day, of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. Samuel Wood.

It would be invidious to select any of this band for special praise or commendation, where all did so well. In these great lengths the men at the heavy end generally are regarded with admiration, though the clear and regular striking of the little bells is a work which should not be ignored. The fact that Mr. Samuel Wood rung what we may term a non-observation bell, and called this long peal, must entitle him to a prominent place among the ranks of first-rate bob-callers. We hope that the whole company will live many years to enjoy the laurels they have so worthily gained.

The "go" of the bells left nothing to be desired; and the ringers wish to return their sincere thanks to those gentlemen who took the trouble to look after them; and also to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Mottram for their kindness in so readily granting permission.

ASPLEY GUISE, NEAR WOBURN, BEDFORDSHIRE.

A new ring of six has been placed in the church tower of Aspley Guise, by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough. They are a very musical little ring, tenor Ab, about 8½ cwt. Special dedication services will be held on Tuesday, May 29th, at 11 a.m., and 7.30 p.m. The Archdeacon of Bedford will preach the morning sermon, and the Rev. S. Harvey Gem, a former Rector who initiated the movement for the present ring, will preach in the evening. The Woburn company of ringers, as members of the Bedfordshire Association, have undertaken to ring the bells on the above occasions. We understand that it is in contemplation to form a change-ringers' society in connection with the above church. The Woburn Company have already given practical assistance to some learning friends, Mr. C. Herbert lending them a set of handbells.

Correspondence.

[While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.]

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

THE JOHN HOLT TABLET.

SIR,—You will remember that in August last year the condition of this tablet was the subject of some correspondence, and a valuable article in your popular paper, but since then, I am sorry to say, we have heard little more of the matter. The St. Margaret's society, however, naturally feeling a great interest in the subject, have decided to endeavour to collect the necessary funds to enable the board to be restored to something like its original condition, and as you have kindly expressed your willingness to receive subscriptions for this purpose, I am desired to ask you to be so good as to call the attention of the ringing public, through the medium of your valuable journal, to the matter, by which means the St. Margaret's society hopes that this ancient record will not long remain in its present deplorable condition. Our Treasurer, Mr. J. Dod, of 52, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, will be happy to receive any subscriptions which may be sent him, and I hope, Sir, you will be able to see your way to help this matter forward to a successful issue.

S. Margaret's (Westminster) Society.

ALFRED SMITH,
Hon. Sec.

THE RECENT PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES AT EDMONTON.

SIR,—A few weeks ago, a letter appeared in the *Tottenham Herald* signed "College Youth," calling in question the correctness of the peal of Grandsire Triples recently obtained at Edmonton. As nothing is said in your paper about so serious a charge, I write these few lines in the hope of calling forth some comment in the proper place. Whether the peal was true or not, I don't know, but I do think, as it was reported in "THE BELL NEWS," that an accusation of this kind should be brought in such a manner as to give the ringers an opportunity of clearing themselves before your readers. One can only suppose that "College Youth" is not prepared to go on with the matter; but if that is the case, surely he should say so publicly.

A NEIGHBOUR.

THE HACKNEY SOCIETY, MIDDLESEX.

THE Annual Dinner of the members and friends of the above Society will take place at the Maidenhead Inn, Hertford, on Tuesday, June 26th. There are two peals of bells in the town, All Saints, ten, and St. Andrew's, eight, in good going order. Any friends wishing to attend the dinner (tickets 3s. each), will kindly intimate the same to the undersigned. Fares at a reduced rate can be obtained by those leaving with the majority of the company from Hackney Downs Junction, at 8.20 a.m., on the above date.

5, Downs Crescent, Stoke Newington.

P. A. COARD, JUN.,
Hon. Sec.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A RINGING MEETING will be held on Saturday, June 2nd, 1883, at Christ Church, Barlow Moor, Didsbury, Manchester. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. The secretaries hope to see a good attendance of members, and also cordially invite all non-members. Ringing limited to half-an-hour each set, until all have rung.

W. J. CHATTERTON, }
JOEL REDFORD, } Hon. Secs.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

A RINGING MEETING will be held on Saturday, June 9th, at Epsom. The tower (eight bells), will be open from 1 p.m. All ringers invited. Eagle House, Wimbledon.

A. W. B. PERCEVAL, Hon. Sec.

OBITUARY.—It is with regret we record the death of Mr. James Price, a member of the St. Stephen's Society, Bristol, who died at his residence on Whit-Monday after a short and painful illness. This is the sixth death that has occurred in this society in a very short time. The company met at St. Mary Redcliff church, on Tuesday, and rang a deeply muffled peal as a token of respect to the deceased, who was much beloved by the whole of his ringing associates; they also met again at the same church after his funeral on Saturday, and rang a like peal, everyone regretting the loss they had sustained.

At the last meeting of the Hants Diocesan Church Building Society, grants were made of £200 for rebuilding and enlarging nave of Alverstoke church; £50 for new aisle at Eastleigh; and £25 for restoration at Ellingham.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL.

5040.

By GEORGE HAYWARD, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire.

2	3	4	5	6	W	M	H
6	4	2	3	5	-	-	-
2	6	4	3	5	-	-	-
4	2	6	3	5	-	-	-
6	3	4	2	5	-	-	-
4	6	3	2	5	-	-	-
3	4	6	2	5	-	-	-

The above three times repeated produce—

5 2 3 6 4

the following courses complete the peal.

4	3	5	2	6	W	M	H
5	4	3	2	6	-	-	-
5	4	3	2	6	-	-	-
3	5	4	2	6	-	-	-
2	3	4	5	6	-	-	-

Rung at St. John's, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, on
Monday, May 14th, 1883; conducted by its composer.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS.

5057.

By A. KNIGHTS, Chesterfield.

5 2 4 3 6*	5 3 2 4 6 8th in 3.
4 2 6 3 5 8 9.	2 3 6 4 5 8 9.
6 2 5 3 4 8 9.	3 6 2 4 5 7 8.
2 5 6 3 4 7 8.	6 2 3 4 5 7 8.
5 6 2 3 4 7 8.	3 2 5 4 6 8 9.
2 6 4 3 5 8 9.	5 2 6 4 3 8 9.
4 6 5 3 2 8 9.	2 6 5 4 3 7 8.
6 5 4 3 2 7 8.	6 5 2 4 3 7 8.
5 4 6 3 2 7 8.	2 5 3 4 6 8 9.
6 4 2 3 5 8 9.	3 5 6 4 2 8 9.
2 4 5 3 6 8 9.	5 6 3 4 2 7 8.
4 5 2 3 6 7 8.	

The last eleven courses twice repeated, produce

2 3 5 6 4

When by calling the 9th in and out at two,
and the 8th in three, rounds are produced.

* 7th in and out at two with a double, twice.

TWO PEALS OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL.

By JOHN THORP, of Ashton-under-Lyne.

5080.

2 3 4 5 6 M W H

5	2	4	3	6	I		
2	3	6	4	5	I	2	
2	5	3	4	6	2	I	
4	2	3	5	6	I		
2	5	6	3	4	I	2	
2	4	5	3	6	2	I	
3	2	5	4	6	I		
6	3	4	2	5	2	I	2
3	5	4	2	6	I	2	
2	4	6	5	3	I		
2	3	4	5	6	2	I	

5080.

2 3 4 5 6 M W H

5	2	4	3	6	I		
3	4	6	2	5	I	I	
4	3	5	2	6	2		2
2	5	6	3	4	I	I	
2	4	5	3	6	2		I
3	2	5	4	6	I		
2	3	6	4	5	2		2
2	5	3	4	6	2		I
4	2	3	5	6	I		
2	4	6	5	3	2		2
2	3	4	5	6	2		I

CHANGE-RINGING: A POEM.

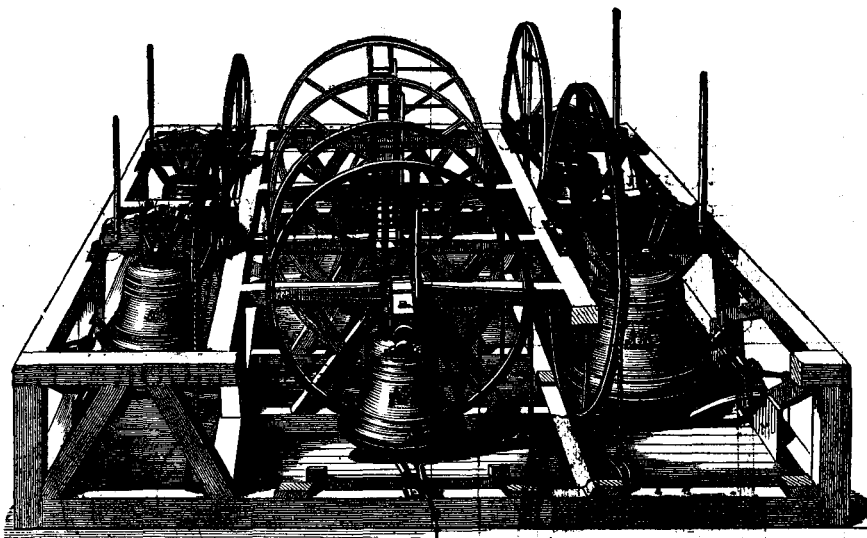
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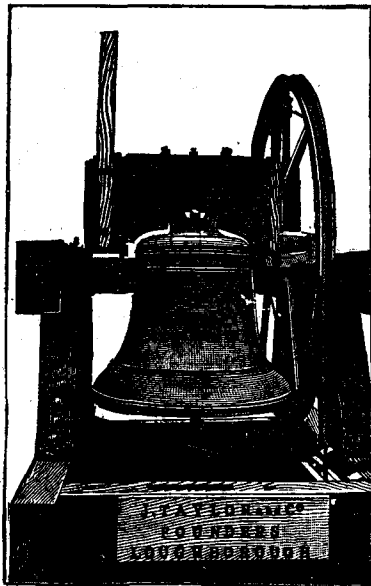
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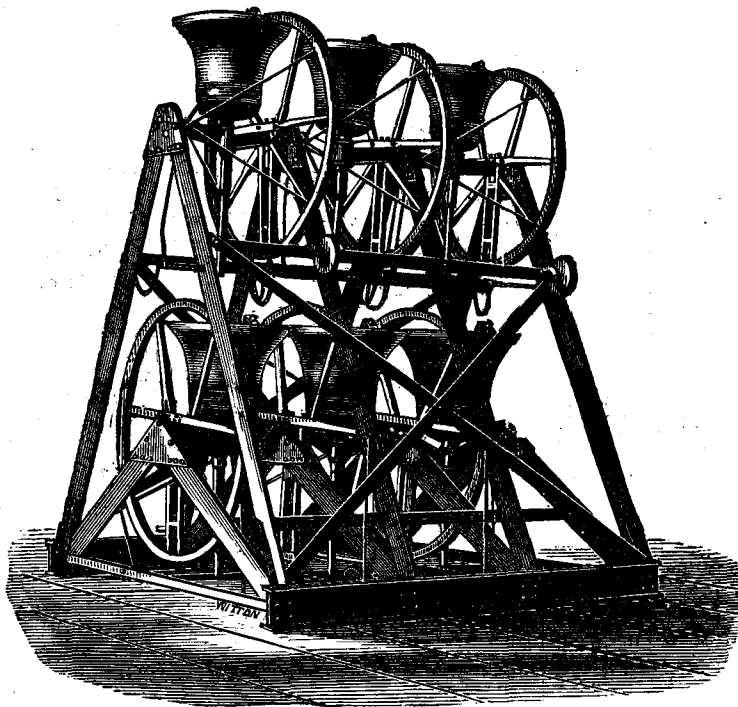
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